

FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk October 20, 2013

North & West edition No 578

AGRICULTURAL »

**Getting to the
core of our
apple harvest**
Industry bounces back

EDUCATION »

**Managing
the next
generation**
University of Kent's
remarkable leader

SPORT »

**Gills greet
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Allen axed**
All change at club

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From university to football, it's all one big learning curve

LIFE is a constant learning experience – be it in pursuit of knowledge, skills or simply what makes your friends and family tick.

There's something of an educational theme running through this weekend's edition. First we speak to the vice-chancellor of the University of Kent – a quite remarkable woman who is overseeing the institution's continual growth against the challenging backdrops of an economy reeking of doom and gloom and a sharp hike in tuition fees.

The political influence on education is rarely far away.

Certainly this week saw the extremes of such debate. On Wednesday the Kent Test results came through – an annual event highlighting all that is good or bad in our county's selective education system; delete as per your own viewpoint.

And the day after there was a one-day strike called by teachers

over pay and conditions. A busy week for anyone involved in education at any level and one which continues to spark much discussion.

Martin Allen would have learned something too this week; and that is never to take a job in football for granted after he was unceremoniously booted out at Gillingham just five months after leading the team to the League Two title.

But then the politics of football is an education in itself.

Next month it's hoped we'll learn more about the future of Manston Airport too after it sold for £1.

It's not a price-tag you would associate with a booming business and the challenge will be significant. We'll certainly be studying the changes which will inevitably come about closely. It will impact on many of us.

It's something of a bumper issue this weekend so dig in – I hope you enjoy it.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

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Publisher: Simon Irwin
Email simon.irwin@archant.co.uk
Editor: Chris Britcher
Email chris.britcher@archant.co.uk
Address:
Apple Barn, Smeeth, TN25 6SS
Editorial: News: 01303 817100
Leisure: 01303 817022
Sport: 01303 817177
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Jobs/Notices: 01303 817056:
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ARCHANT Inspiring Communities

High-end kitchen, bedroom and bathroom furniture manufacturer introduces new range of kitchens aimed at the mid-market customer

By Daniel Reynolds

JUST walking into the Ream showroom at Gillingham Business Park you can instantly see why the company has been the preferred choice of luxury kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms for the past 34 years – the displays are simply stunning!

Whilst many companies are struggling to make ends meet in the current financial climate, Ream are still expanding and with recent investment into new state-of-the-art machinery at their manufacturing facility, Ream are now able to offer a new range of kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and home living furniture named 'The Kent Collection'.

Managing director Peter Cross said, "This is a very exciting time and opens up a brand new market for us. What's more, it allows many customers who believe that high-end bespoke furniture would exceed their budget, a real opportunity to own exactly that, at mid-range prices."

So, if you are currently in the market for upgrading any of these fundamental rooms within your home, here are six critical qualities you should expect:

- 1) You should not have to pay a fortune. Even the most experienced supply-and-fit specialist companies will offer you competitive prices and value for money.
- 2) Furniture installation is a skilled – infact, highly skilled – job. Look for a company with

its own installation team who have many years experience and expertise fitting a wide variety of different products.

- 3) Choose a company that offers you a complete, start-to-finish service: building work, wall and floor tiling, electrics and plumbing. You do not want lots of different tradespeople doing various parts of your project. Expect the company to do everything; you'll get a far better, more reliable job and you only ever have to communicate with one company.
- 4) Ask for (and expect) FREE computerized 3D planning. You should be offered unlimited alterations until your design is exactly how you want it, right down to every detail.
- 5) You should be offered a 100% guarantee on all installation work and furniture. No quibbles. I would personally never use a company that isn't prepared to put its money where its mouth is. They should be fully prepared to guarantee the quality of workmanship they promise you, by coming back without charge if anything goes wrong... and fixing it.
- 6) The best companies have a choice of modern, contemporary and traditional styles for you to choose from, each with factory built, colour matched rigid cabinets.

A company you can trust

REAM are one of the best, most meticulous and

skilled kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and home living suppliers and fitters I have found. They really take an interest in your job and put an incredible amount of care and attention into building and finishing your project to craftsmen standards. Plus their service doesn't stop there; they pride themselves in exceptional after sales service.

A project you'll be proud of for years and years

HAVING new fitted furniture can be a big project; getting the exact style and quality you want is important.

This company is impressive. They discuss every detail with you and care about your project as if they were installing it for one of their best friends.

Ream offers unrivalled choice to suit all types and lifestyles. They have a large range of styles you can choose from, all of a superb high quality, plus an excellent range of products and accessories from many of the best-known and reliable manufacturers.

Ream give you a complete guarantee on ALL your work and furniture.

Mr Cross insists on guaranteeing the work his team do for you. Luckily, little ever goes wrong because his directly employed installation team are among the best and most reliable fitters in the country.



Peter Cross,
managing director

He says: "If anything at all is not 100% right for you, or if anything goes wrong, we make it a priority to come back and correct it. We promise the best value in everything we do and ensure that promise is lived up to."

My advice?

IF YOU'RE thinking of having a new kitchen, bathroom, bedroom or home living furniture, call Ream now to arrange your free consultation.

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Promoter set to revive Hop Farm Music Festival

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

MUSIC fans could be set for the return of one of the county's biggest live music extravaganzas next year, amid mounting speculation the Hop Farm Music Festival is set to make a return.

The annual summer event was held for several years in the grounds of the Paddock Wood tourist attraction, pulling in crowds of up to 50,000.

Headline acts over the years included the likes of Prince, Morrissey, Suede, Neil Young and Bob Dylan.

But it hit financial problems after the 2012 event and the company run by famous music promoter Vince Power collapsed.

However, he then attempted to revive it on a scaled down level - reducing the capacity to just 10,000 - but ticket sales flopped and the event was cancelled.

Now a new promoter appears to have stepped up to take over.

It is believed festival and events promoter Neil Butkeratis, based in Nottinghamshire, is behind the attempt to revive the event.

He is best known for the



COMING BACK?: A promoter behind an Eighties revival festival is spearheading Hop Farm Festival re-birth

Flashback Festival staged in Nottinghamshire which features a line-up of Eighties stars.

A new company calling itself Hop Farm Music Festival Ltd was set up in August and an account on Twitter has started to whip up publicity for next year's event, although no dates and no headlines have been announced.

It is not yet known the scale of

the event planned.

On his personal Twitter and Facebook pages, Mr Butkeratis said: "Great couple of days in London, very productive and some great artists lined up for next year's events."

"Looking forward to a full festival season next year, exciting times ahead with Flashback, Hop Farm and Chelmsford festivals."

The Hop Farm itself remained cagey about the details but in the past has hinted it was keen to continue staging a music event at the site.

Speaking earlier this year, spokesman for the venue, Miguel Fenton, said: "We have taken on a number of leads for similar events. Some of these could really put the Hop Farm into the spotlight."

School ponders plan to move out of city and onto former golf club

A SECONDARY school in Canterbury says it has been offered a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity to move lock, stock and barrel to a new site in Herne Bay.

And if the deal is agreed, it would see Barton Court Grammar School move into state-of-the-art new buildings on land donated for free.

Parents were informed of the opportunity this week which could see the school shift from its city centre site opposite the former Canterbury prison, to land previously used by Herne Bay Golf Club.

A series of consultations will now take place. If all goes to plan, the school could be open by September 2017.

A consequence of the move would go some way to easing pressures on grammar school places in the area. A key part of the financial deal would see the school needing to expand its current four form intake to as much as six.

In a letter to parents, head teacher Kirsten Cardus said: "We are a very

successful grammar school which is very popular and oversubscribed.

"The governors have a desire to significantly improve the facilities available to our students and, if possible, expand the school to meet the overwhelming demand for places.

"The options available are extremely limited on our small city centre site.

"We are delighted a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity has presented itself whereby a location in Herne Bay has been offered as an alternative site for the school from September 2017.

"Mark Quinn, from NewmanQuinn and Quinn Estates, is offering the land for free and is helping the school raise funds to build a brand new state-of-the-art school with the latest sporting and learning facilities."

Among the facilities, which would also be open to the local community, would be artificial sports pitches with floodlights, six tennis courts, a modern clubhouse and a cricket pitch.

The head teacher stressed the plans were still at a very early stage and subject to consultation.

Asda agreement gives green light to North Farm scheme

COULD relief finally be in sight for one of Tunbridge Wells' most notorious traffic hot spots?

Certainly the town's Conservative MP hopes so, after Greg Clark welcomed news that plans for a £5 million road scheme on the North Farm estate have cleared their final hurdle.

Kent County Council had proposed a plan which saw the main Longfield Road widened in

a bid to allow a better flow of traffic. But it hit a snag with supermarket chain Asda the only trader resisting giving up a patch of land to enable the work to take place.

Now, however, store bosses have relented.

Mr Clark said: "It will be a big relief to everyone who has been caught up in the nightmare traffic of North Farm."

Court for man facing charges over Ashford sex attacks

A 46-year-old man has appeared in court charged with a string of sex attacks on women in Ashford.

John Williams, 46, of Essetford Road in the town, was arrested on Wednesday and charged by police on Thursday.

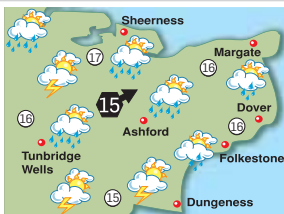
He faces 11 counts of assault and sexual assault spread over a three-year period.

They date back to November

2010. Ten of the charges relate to incidents in Ashford - the other in Chatham.

He appeared in front of magistrates in Canterbury on Friday before being remanded in custody. He faces court again on November 4.

The investigation has seen police officers knock on thousands of doors and collect dozens of DNA samples.



TODAY: Unsettled with sun and showers. Fresh south-westerly winds. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F). **TONIGHT:** Cloudy, but dry. Min temp 11-14C (52-57F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover 00.14 6.7 12.27 6.9

Margate 01.21 4.8 13.29 4.9

St Mary's 06.05 5.7 18.23 5.7

WEEK AHEAD

| | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Monday | Max 18C | Min 14C |
| Tuesday | Max 18C | Min 14C |
| Wednesday | Max 18C | Min 12C |
| Thursday | Max 18C | Min 12C |
| Friday | Max 17C | Min 11C |
| Saturday | Max 17C | Min 11C |

Information supplied by **MeteoGroup**

Explosion threat of illegal 'Facebook fireworks'

TWO huge hauls of fireworks, being sold illegally on Facebook, could have led to a "significant" explosion, police said after the explosives were seized this week.

One batch was discovered in a self-storage unit in Ramsgate and the other at a private house in Margate.

Those at the storage facility were found in a confined 20sq ft space and contained a total of 50kg of gunpowder.

Kent Trading Standards manager, Mark Rolfe, said a

single spark could have caused an explosion big enough to destroy the whole depot.

Although the fireworks themselves were authentic, Mr Rolfe said they were being sold before the legal period for sales which runs from October 15 to November 11.

A 34-year-old man has been questioned. Police say investigations continue.



CCTV: Teen behind this mask identified

How did school teacher end up dead just hours after jetting out of UK?

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

THE mother of a school teacher suspected to have been murdered in Doha remains in Qatar this weekend as authorities try to piece together just what happened.

Popular Lauren Patterson, 24, from Chislehurst had been working in Doha as a primary school teacher. But after jetting back to Qatar after attending the funeral of her grandmother in the UK last Friday, she went missing.

Last spotted leaving a nightclub at the five-star La Cigale Hotel in Doha in the early hours of Saturday morning, conflicting reports suggest she was either with a group of men or female friend.

Her disappearance sparked a desperate appeal via social media by her boyfriend.

But her body was later discovered dumped among some bins.

The cause of her death had not been confirmed as we went to press,



DEAD: Popular school teacher Lauren Patterson from Chislehurst

but reports suggested she had been "burned beyond recognition" and that identification was only possible through DNA tests.

Qatari authorities confirmed two men had been arrested as part of an

investigation into her death.

Her mother, Alison Patterson from West Malling, jetted out to the Middle East this week to establish the facts behind her daughter's death.

Writing on Facebook before she left she described Lauren as "a truly remarkable girl" and "in heaven now in her Daddy's arms".

Lauren's father, Stuart, is believed to have died five years ago aged 44.

Her boyfriend James Grima, from Malta, led the social media appeal last Sunday.

He had been due to meet her that day. Within hours of appealing for help finding her, he updated the message with news she was dead.

He said: "I know we were not together for a very long time babe, but during this short period you made me realise that there is still hope out there. I can't believe that it had to end this way Lauren, I really don't."

"I was so happy that I had finally found someone that could change my life so much, and in such a positive way too. I am never ever going to forget you."

Schools hit by a day of industrial action

THOUSANDS of children suffered a day of disruption on Thursday as the two main teachers' unions called a day of strike action.

Dozens of schools across Kent and Medway were either completely closed or partially closed to pupils as part of a long-running protest over pay, pensions and working conditions.

In total, more than 40 schools were closed with members of the NUT and NASUWT unions staging protests outside a number of them.

Among the key issues at the heart of action are plans for schools to link their staff's salaries to performance in the classroom rather than simply time served.

The unions also claim changes to pensions will mean their members working longer, paying in more and receiving less when they decide to retire.

Concerns have also been raised over Michael Gove's reforms to allow schools to have longer days and longer terms.

Elaborate card fraud spreads across county

AN ELDERLY woman duped by fraudsters has spoken out about how she was conned into revealing her bank details over the phone to a bogus police officer.

The offenders have been making phone calls telling the victim to call their bank. But someone intercepts the call and they then obtain all the information about the account they need, including the PIN number, and tell the victim they will come and collect the card from them. The suspect then uses the card to withdraw cash.

There have 60 such reports across the county in the last two months with scams reported in Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Dover, Canterbury, Herne Bay, Ramsgate, Chatham and Gravesend. A significant number reported were in Dartford.

Victim Jeanette Atkins, 76, said: "He told me to call the number on the back of my card and report it to the bank. What I didn't realise was that he hadn't put the phone down so when someone else came on the line it was one of the scammers."

Arrest after women's 'bottoms touched'

POLICE have arrested a 35-year-old man following reports a number of women had their bottoms touched in one of Kent's town centres.

Several female shoppers reported being groped in separate incidents in Gillingham High Street over the past three months.

Officers are keen to speak to anyone who may have witnessed the offences, which allegedly happened on August 24, September 4 and October 6.

The suspect is described as black, between 30 and 40 years old, about 6ft tall, with short black hair and an African accent.

A Gillingham man has been arrested on suspicion of sexual assault and has been bailed until November 1 pending further enquiries.

Anyone with information or who witnessed any of the incidents, call Kent Police on 01634 792177 quoting reference XY/31863/13. Alternatively, contact Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Labour's new welfare chief to visit county

THE newly appointed shadow work and pensions secretary, Rachel Reeves, will be in the county on Monday to find out about the work going on to get more young people employed.

The Astor Theatre in Deal and the Skillnet Group in Dover, which both work to drive down youth unemployment, will be sharing

their experiences with the Labour politician.

Clair Hawkins, Labour's Dover and Deal parliamentary hopeful for 2015, said: "If we can spread the word of the work they [the Astor and Skillnet Group] are doing then hopefully other local companies and groups will follow their example and do the same."



"This is also a chance for the apprentices and the students at Skillnet Group to say what they think would tackle unemployment. Those opinions can help to shape our future policy in this area."

KCC unveils action plan for vulnerable children

COUNTY Hall chiefs will present an action plan in response to recommendations set out by Ofsted in its report into vulnerable children.

The Ofsted document, released in August, showed improvements had been made at KCC, with inspectors awarding the authority "good" for its commitment to improve

children's services. The council received "adequate" for the rest of the inspection.

In 2010, Ofsted found KCC's child protection "inadequate".

The latest report said KCC had made strides but highlighted areas needing improvement.

On Friday, KCC will discuss the action plan, which sets out work to improve.

...also

Festival of arts begins

THE largest festival of arts and culture in the region, the Canterbury Festival, is running every day next week.

Attracting an audience of some 70,000, its programme includes music, theatre, dance, comedy and exhibitions.

For details see <http://bit.ly/ZBESd>

Parkrun picks up speed

RUNNING enthusiasts are expected to descend on Ashford's Victoria Park next Saturday as the parkrun phenomenon continues.

The 5km event is open to all, regardless of ability. The run starts at 9am. Register first, for free, at www.parkrun.org.uk.

Violent crime crackdown

KENT Police will continue its drive to crack down on drink-related incidents and domestic abuse using the new predictive policing (PredPol) technology, which predicts where a crime will take place.

Last weekend, 103 arrests were made for violence-related crime in town centres.

Council's £40m hopes

MEDWAY Council will this week discuss hopes of securing £40m through the Big Lottery Fund.

The authority is making the bid with the charity Family Action to benefit children's services specifically for pregnancy and early years and to reduce social problems.



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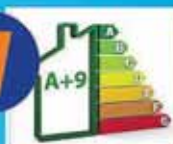
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Profile

MEETING the head of one of the world's top ranking universities is an experience you would expect to be slightly intimidating.

An academic with the business nous to run a huge institution combined with the pressure of holding the futures of thousands of students in their hands, is a tall order.

A formidable character beckons.

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, on first meeting, however, is anything but.

Friendly, warm and easy company – “I tell everybody I’m a really boring academic” – the vice-chancellor of the University of Kent, effectively its chief executive, is clearly passionate about education and the futures of her students.

Her career is one of remarkable achievement; of scientific success, working with Government, and capped with first a CBE and then by being made a Dame – both of which she is too modest to discuss.

What’s more she remains a relatively sprightly 62.

Yet underlying this is a steely determination; a drive to see the university push forward.

And she’s making it happen: “We’re not creeping up the league tables. We’re storming up them,” she tells me as she proudly points out the university’s ranking as 20th in the UK list of 120.

The institution has moved with significant strides since it first opened almost 50 years ago on October 1, 1965.

It was among a group of universities to open following the Robbins Report, one of the most important documents of the post-war era.

It cited the need for expansion of higher education with an underlying theme that universities be available to “all who were qualified for them by ability and attainment”.

And so the University of Kent at Canterbury was born, with just two buildings, 500 students and 150 staff.

Decades later, it is recognised as the UK’s European university, with campuses in Canterbury and Medway, and smaller centres in Brussels and Paris, as well as courses in Athens and Rome.

The 500 students has grown to 19,000, and employees from 150 to some 3,000.

Its main campus, on a hill overlooking the city’s cathedral and surrounding green fields of Canterbury, has also expanded.

It has become so significant it has redefined the city itself – turning it into one with a vibrant student market and sparking the resulting cultural mix which inevitably follows.

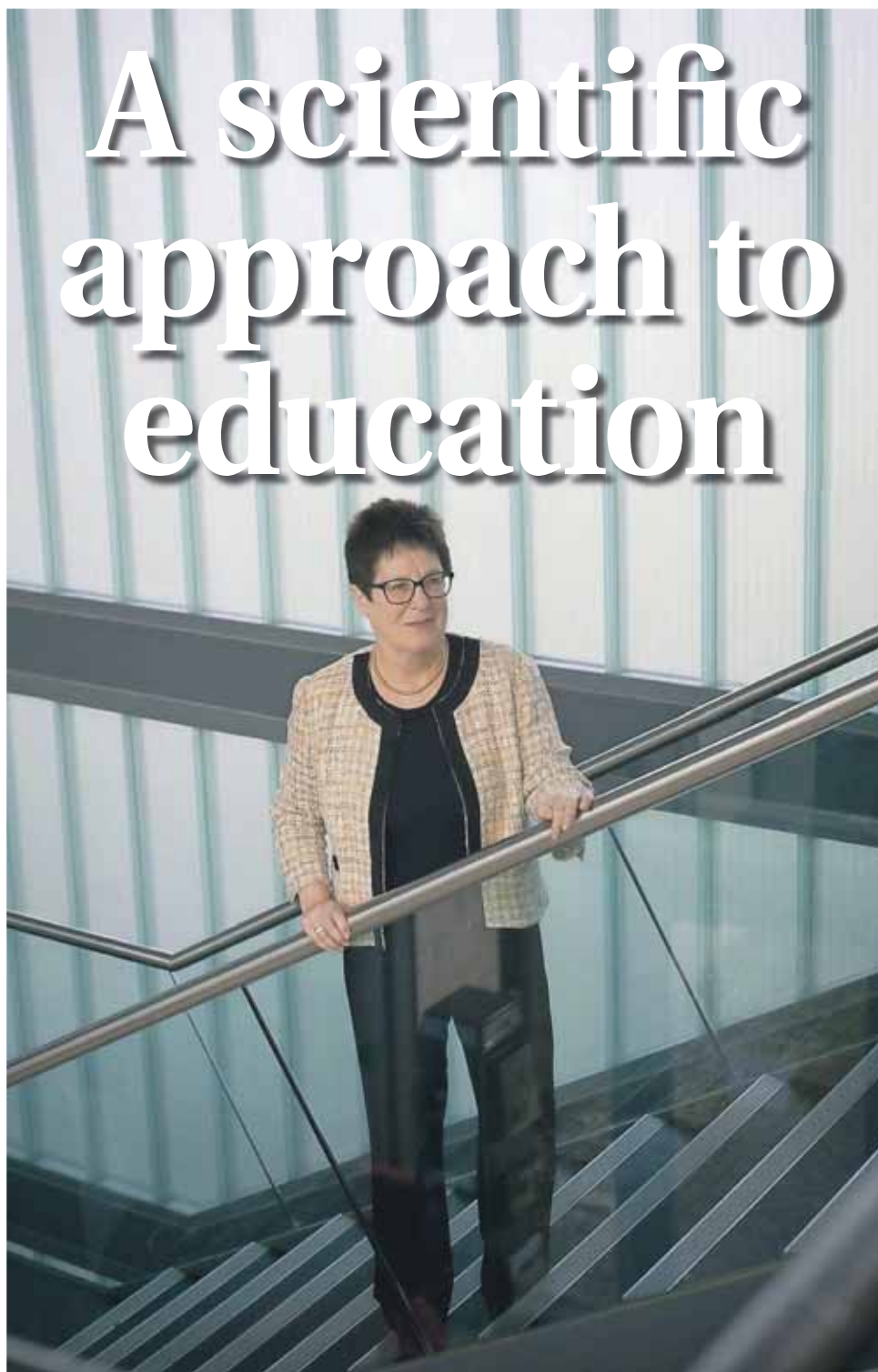
Canterbury is perhaps now as much about the future generation, through education, as it is its rich heritage.

And at the helm for the past six years has been Prof Goodfellow, steadfastly determined to see the university move in great leaps ahead of its contemporaries.

Higher education, it seems, flows through her veins.

“I’ve worked in universities all my life,” she explained.

“I went to America for a start; I was a scientist. I went there for three years and then came back and worked at



A scientific approach to education

Marijke Cox talks to Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, a former scientist and now vice-chancellor at the University of Kent, whose passion for higher education is the driving factor behind the institution’s remarkable success...

Birkbeck in London with mature students for about 20 years.

“I then did a five-year stint with the Government, giving out all the money for biosciences in the UK to universities and institutes around the country.

“We gave out about £400 million a year for research – it was very exciting. I worked quite closely with civil servants and the Government.

“And then I came here in 2007.”

Her background, in fact, involves a lot more.

Her career began with an undergraduate degree in physics at the University of Bristol and she completed a PhD in biophysics at the Open University research unit in Oxford.

It was then she moved to Stanford University in California, before her time as professor of biomolecular sciences in 1995, and head of the department of crystallography in 1996

at Birkbeck. She was appointed vice-master in 1998.

In 2001 she was awarded a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to biophysics and made a Dame (DBE) in 2010.

She is a fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, a fellow of the Institute of Physics and the Institute of Biology.

“At quite a young age in terms of my career I was on government committees and have always been interested in policy, strategy and science for the UK”

Prof Dame Julia Goodfellow, on how science has shaped her life

“I think as part of my career I have always looked outwards so I’ve always done something for me, which is normally my research; I’ve done something for the university, which may be new courses or taking a new leadership role at the university; and then I always try and do something outside for my community, either a science community or broader,” she explained.

“So at quite a young age in terms of my career I was on government committees and have always been interested in policy, strategy and science for the UK. We’re such a wonderful country for science, but we don’t sell it.

“I also work on science dialogue and I’m chair of the British Science Association to see how we can have dialogue with the public and enthuse children about science.

“I was really pleased to come here to Kent and back to a university. I always feel as though universities are my home.”

An academic who has seen great changes in education, Prof Goodfellow is an example of how women have risen in the world of academia – particularly in science, a field traditionally dominated by men.

“It’s changed dramatically; when I went to university, albeit a very long time ago, I think it was eight per cent of the population that went,” she said.

“Of those, half of them weren’t female, like today, so a very low percentage of women went to university.

“We’ve seen two things over the years; one is a general increase in the number of people going to university – and I don’t think there is necessarily a right number of people who should go.

“The increase is, I think, because our economy has changed from being a cheap manufacturing place to a high tech manufacturing and services or knowledge-based economy.

“Secondly, we’ve also seen far more women enrol.

“One of the biggest changes is you look at universities now and they are almost all over 50 per cent women.

“Part of this was by making teaching a graduate occupation. When I was at school you didn’t have to go to university to be a teacher, you went to a teacher training college.”

While there are more women now attending university than previously, the number of students coming from less affluent families is still a bone of contention.

“We’re still arguing whether enough people from deprived backgrounds are going to university, whether we’ve reached out enough to them,” said Prof Goodfellow.

“There has been change.

“But if you take somebody like me and a lot of vice-chancellors, you’ll

see that we all went to state grammar schools, we went to university paid for by the state, so of all the professions we have the greatest number of non-privately educated people running universities.

"We did come out of a culture which was trying to do that, albeit it in much smaller numbers, and we [the university] do a lot of work in Kent and Medway working with schools; we manage an academy in Gillingham, we work with about 20 schools to support getting their pupils to university."

Much of Prof Goodfellow's focus is to see more people going to university, not just for the academic nature of the courses but what she sees as the "whole package": learning new skills, extracurricular activities and working with people from different cultures.

Intake numbers at the university did peak in 2011, but perhaps for the wrong reason.

The rise followed a controversial change in law which would allow universities to charge up to £9,000 a year in fees from 2012, a huge jump from the previous £3,000, meaning many tried to apply before the higher fee came in.

The change was met with a fierce backlash, protests and warnings that young people would be put off going to university.

It was voted through by the Coalition government amid huge public outcry and split political parties.

But did those at the head of universities such as Kent support the move?

It seems with huge cuts to budgets, they had little choice.

"Under the old system, students were borrowing just over £3,000 and the Government was paying us more money, first to run the courses, and then for capital separately," Prof Goodfellow explained.

"For some courses we were getting around £9,000 anyway, but the student only saw a bill for £3,000.

"The issue for the UK is when you want and need a lot of people to go to university – because we're a knowledge-based economy so we need to educate a fair proportion of our population at university level – who pays for it?

"It's obviously good for the UK, it's a public good, so some money has to go in from the public purse, but it's also a private good, the student tends to do well, they tend to get higher salaries, more likely to have a job. It's a difficult balance.

"When the Coalition came in and made the cuts, which was to cut all the money for universities for teaching, we didn't have much choice.

"So given the cuts that had already been made, the only option was to accept the £9,000 fee.

"Otherwise we would have had a combination of far fewer students and we would not have been able to support them as well as we do now.

"So given the level of cuts the Coalition felt was needed for the UK economy, this was a scenario I could support in those circumstances."

She admitted in some ways it has been good for Kent.

"We have been able to use the money well: we use quite a bit of it for bursaries and scholarships, we have to do this but we go over and above that, so about £800 per student goes



to support bursaries for less well-off students together with some money from Government.

"We're also putting significant sums into repairing buildings and refurbishing the new library.

"Students will benefit from it. All the money goes back into supporting the students.

"We end up with about the same money we had before, but it comes in slightly different ways.

"What we're doing is investing all the money in buildings and facilities.

"If you look at our reports we have a surplus every year, but that's not a profit, it only goes back into the organisation. We're a charity, non-profit organisation, all the money gets reinvested in staff and buildings."

Despite the positive outlook, the initial fear ahead of the controversial tuition fee rise was that the number of people wanting to go to university would drop significantly.

"September 2012, was the first

year people had to borrow £9,000 to come to university so everybody who could do the year before applied for university.

"It meant there was a massive hump in 2011, and then it went down in 2012, with obviously a new system and one charging £9,000.

"Now we're back up to 2010 levels. So we've come right through it."

Her sights are firmly focused on a bright future for the university which includes expansion on-site.

For anyone who attended the university – or even drove through the Canterbury campus – just a decade ago, many parts have changed almost beyond recognition.

As we sit and chat, just down the road swathes of land are under construction with new accommodation blocks being built.

"The campus is enormous," said Prof Goodfellow.

"We're absolutely investing in growth. I've just found out that in the next five years we'll have £200m of new buildings.

"One is a new college, which will be named after Alan Turing, the computer scientist.

"Then there's the extension of the Templeman Library, which was one of the first buildings here.

"We're also planning what will be a medium term temporary building to move our maths department because we are just so short of space.

"We're so full here, so popular."

A new business school is also on the horizon, due to be finished in 2015, as well as additional accommodation for its students.

Expansion will be funded by a pri-

vate-public partnership.

"We will have another 400 beds by next September, and a further 350 by the January," the vice-chancellor adds.

"At the moment, we would like to house all our first year students and we cannot quite do that. Every year we're out by several hundred.

"We also have a lot of students who do mixed things so going overseas and coming back mid-year and we can't always get them into college accommodation.

"We've got 14,000 students on site. By the time we finish building there will only be 5,500 beds so there is a long way to go before we can house all of them.

"But we do want to give some respite to multiple occupancy housing and affordable housing in Canterbury."

This, she says, is important.

But striking a balance is difficult. Do you protect land which the community wishes to keep free from development? Or use this land to provide student accommodation to free up much-needed affordable housing in the city for local people?

Tensions have grown in recent years between the university and the community over the Chaucer Fields development.

The university wanted to build student accommodation and a conference centre which would be named Keynes III.

It would be located on a space known as the Southern Slopes, south of the university, and would include blocks of student halls of residence and a 150-bed hotel and conference centre.

A LEADING ROLE

"I've got to make sure the whole institution runs, make sure it works, a bit like a chief executive," Prof Goodfellow explains of her job.

"I have to be looking towards the future. We need to run a sustainable institution and still be here in another 50 years.

"It's challenging. In some ways it's like a company although it's not considered politically correct to call a university a business but we are businesses now.

"If you look at it in terms of a business you'd see over 3,000 employees, a £200m turnover and 19,000 students, which is quite big, especially in Kent, where there are not that many big companies.

"But our product is incredibly special; it's people, it's the students, so we're like no other business in terms of the student and what we're trying to do to support them.

"I really like the job because I can look outwards locally, in Kent and also nationally and internationally."

But environmentalists launched a fierce campaign against the plans arguing it would destroy green open space, trees and hedgerows which have been there for 200 years.

“If you look at our reports we have a surplus every year, but that’s not a profit, – we’re a charity all the money gets reinvested in staff and buildings”

Prof Dame Julie Goodfellow,
on running the University of Kent



Pictures: ADY KERRYFRANCESCA HASELDEN/MAURICIO SALAZAR/UNIVERSITY OF KENT

“I need to show the effect of having a cap on how much you can charge a student over a long period. We will be fixed for a long time at £9,000”

Prof Dame Julie Goodfellow, on university facing up to tough times

University heads later scaled back the scheme and moved the proposed accommodation to the back of the campus meaning the hedgerows would be protected.

It was approved in March 2013, by Canterbury City Council, although there was still some criticism of the new proposal by campaigners.

“I think the majority of the time we can work with the local community,” said Prof Goodfellow.

“One of the things we’ve tried to do is to get more accommodation because of the natural concern over multiple occupancy houses and we could see where local people were saying, look, we’ve lost families there. “So we’ve said fine, it’s our responsibility to build more accommodation on campus.

“We’ve got about 4,500 study bedrooms and we are going ahead and building another 900 on this campus.

“We’ve got 1,000 places in Medway so where we recognise issues over lack of suitable local housing then we feel it’s our job to contribute.”

Traditionally, university towns often see town versus gown conflicts.

But despite any tensions felt, it can’t be denied Canterbury would not be the city it is today without the university.

A multi-cultural blend of residents, a boosted economy through student spending, business opportunities, job prospects – the university, in a sense, has helped the city grow substantially.

In the same way, the university may not be the institution it is without the city; its proximity to the Continent, its rich history and undeniable beauty, the cathedral spires

reaching high above the rooftops, a reminder of the cultural importance and global fame of the surroundings.

Prof Goodfellow says she believes the relationship between the community and authorities is good.

“We have a number of events to involve local people from all communities,” she explains.

“Next week, I’m holding a stakeholder partnership lunch which will be people from the local hospital, local schoolteachers, councillors, businesses, and they can use it as a networking event and we can use it to meet with them.

“We do a lot of events for local people; we do open lectures, we’ve got our own concert hall, we’ve got a cinema and theatre. We’re a very open campus here and at Medway.”

She added: “The other thing we want to look at is can we work with local businesses to get even more jobs?

“We have an innovation centre on site and we want to build another one. We think there is a massive demand for small business. We rent space. We have student entrepreneurs. We’re happy to support small and medium-sized enterprises.

“We really do support local jobs.”

A study two years ago found the economic benefit to the region is £600m directly from the university.

Prof Goodfellow said this did not include indirect funds through money the students spend or extra jobs created in the city and Medway through the influx of students each year.

“We already do an enormous amount for the economy.”

She was quick to state, however, it was not all about money.

“There is also the big cultural side,” she stressed.

“We’re the UK’s European university. This started out because of geography. If you’re in the centre of England you’ve got motorways all around you and people come from all over.

“If you think Kent, you think sea on three sides. What’s the other side of the sea? Continental Europe. But there is a lot more to it than that.

“There is a lot of movement by students both ways between Europe and the UK. We want to take advantage of that.

“We have small centres in Brussels and Paris and a joint course in Athens with one of the universities there.

“We’re setting up a similar one in Rome. We have joint research PhD training programmes with a number of major universities in Europe where they do half in Prague and half here, or half in Portugal.

“We’re making things interesting.

“A lot of students are going to work in international industries so empowering students to study or have work experience abroad is one of the things we try and offer them.

“We have UK domicile students all over the world.

“As for international students outside of Europe, I think we attract them because it’s such a wonderful location.

“There are a lot of boarding schools around here and a lot of international students come to them, it’s known to

be a very good area for education.

“Canterbury is a relatively safe city if you look at statistics. Everybody says wow what a fantastic campus with a view of the cathedral, it’s absolutely stunning.”

The university has staff from 70 countries and students from 145.

In another nod towards a changing world, there are now hundreds of students from China – one of the world’s key emerging markets.

Prof Goodfellow said the institution prides itself on its “mixed community”.

“Experience of working and living with people from different cultures, it’s just fantastic,” she said.

But with all the positives, Prof Goodfellow admitted there were challenges ahead.

“I think government cuts are a worry at an institutional level and at a personal level because people see their salaries constrained, not going up much. They see costs, whether it’s energy or housing, increasing,” she said.

“In terms of the institution, they basically gave us one big cut and then the £9,000 system.

“What they haven’t done is put in any mechanism of increasing that so we all obviously have to be efficient and effective, but after having a fee cap of £9,000 for four or five years the quality is going to go down, we’re just not going to be able to keep that up.

“I need to show the effect of having a cap on how much you can charge a student over a long period. We will be fixed for a long time at £9,000. We’ve got to look at that for the future.”

She admitted it wasn’t just the big cut worrying her, but the smaller ones “chipping away” at finances.

The university knows more than ever the impact the recession and subsequent job squeeze can have on students and so is going to great lengths to ensure students are fully equipped with the necessary skills when leaving Kent.

“One of the things we pride ourselves on is trying to help our students stand out when it comes to getting jobs,” said Prof Goodfellow.

“Yes, you have to work hard academically to get a good degree, but you also have to show you’ve done other things; going abroad, working aboard, volunteering, taking a lead in music, extending skill sets.”

The university also helps provide that all-important, CV boosting work experience.

“It’s the whole package, not just about getting a good degree.”

Some 94 per cent of students leaving Kent are “doing something” within six months, said the vice-chancellor.

“In terms of a formal graduate job it might be a bit lower.”

Despite the challenges faced by universities and its graduates trying to enter the jobs market, Prof Goodfellow is optimistic about the future.

“The direction of travel is for us to continue to be a quality university,” she said.

“The Guardian [newspaper] had us at 20th out of 120 universities and we are certainly in most league tables in the top 30 now.

“You look at the universities below us; we’re ahead of Manchester, we’re ahead of Essex, we’re ahead of Sussex. UK universities are incredibly strong and we want to be up there with the strongest.

“It’s a reflection not just on our students, but our staff and the research we do.”

With almost 50 years under its belt and Prof Goodfellow’s confidence and optimism, it’s likely the future will be as the university desires.

But with challenges to finances and the ever-present axe hovering over budgets, it’s unlikely to be easy.

'My challenge is to put something down in 2015, which will still be visible in 2065'

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

ALMOST 50 years ago, 500 excited students and 150 most-likely nervous staff walked through the doors of the newly founded University of Kent.

Set up in response to the Robbins Report, which called for more higher education establishments, there were just two buildings on the somewhat empty site in Canterbury.

But a sense of anticipation reigned. Smartly dressed students clutched their suitcases; it was the start of something exciting, not just for the university, but for the city too.

The small cohort of teachers and fresh-faced students were to make history; founders who would play an important role in shaping education and culture in the county and further afield.

And on October 1, 1965, the journey started.

Skip forward the years and you'll now find a staggeringly huge campus teeming with students and with buildings on every corner as well as campuses in Medway, Paris and Brussels.

The 500 figure from 1965, has grown to more than 19,000 with more than 3,000 staff.

It has, explains Professor Keith Mander, deputy vice-chancellor physical resources, been quite a journey.

"We published a booklet at the 25th anniversary and the then-vice-chancellor Jo Grimond wrote a preface talking about how launching a university is a bit like launching a

ship; it sails on the high seas, there's turbulence and it goes places."

The ship analogy is apt, he says, seeing as the institution is now the UK's self-styled European university.

He explains: "Writing in 1989/90, we were the University of Kent in Canterbury, but in the last 20 years we've added Medway, Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome, and the notion of this ship sort of sailing along is one I find quite attractive as a model for actually where the university has been in the last 50 years.

"That notion also applies to people who make their journey to us. We have students from more than 130 countries, staff from 70 countries."

Prof Mander said the university first opened on a very windswept campus "with two buildings and no trees".

"I find it completely fascinating; there were minutes in committee meetings from 1965, where they say 'right, we've founded a university, isn't it exciting, but the grass is growing, we need to buy a lawnmower'.

"There was a whole set of really practical issues, like buying a lawnmower, hiring someone to push the lawnmower. You need to recruit staff, find somewhere for students to live. It's all wonderful stuff about how exciting it must have been to found a university. Let's look at the next 50 years with the same excitement."

Prof Mander said through years of success, and others not so successful, the university was now thriving.

While it would have been easy to simply throw a number of parties to celebrate the milestone, Prof Mander



VISION: Professor Keith Mander

said the anniversary was an opportunity to create a lasting legacy.

"The past is great, but the future is more important," he said.

"I was reading the Robbins Report and it discusses lots of issues in 1962, which are actually very relevant in 2013: whether students should have grants or loans, what's the ideal size of a university – this whole set of things about the relationship with industry and higher education.

"Reading it so many years down the line this is all very believable.

"My challenge for the 50th anniversary is to put something down in 2015, which will still be visible in 2065 in

the way that if you read the Robbins Report 50 years on there are things there that are still very current."

There is a large focus on cultural development as part of the celebrations.

A set of outcomes to be achieved have been drawn up; encouraging and helping more people to access higher education as well as giving students challenges to help them make extraordinary achievements.

"Thirdly is to build towards a successful future," said Prof Mander.

"That involves engagement with our alumni; people who are now very successful who can provide placements to other generations of students and graduates.

"Fourthly, it's about a place to inspire students so having some focus on our buildings."

The fifth outcome of the anniversary, he said, is building a culture of excellence for both staff and students.

But perhaps the biggest part of the 50th celebrations is the Kent Opportunity Fund.

Prof Mander explained: "We've just been through the start of the housing crisis, a banking crisis, a recession, and I think there will be a problem where for 20 years all these students will have had student loans and it's not entirely clear they will be able to pay them back in the way the Government thinks they will be able to.

"So, in 20 years I think we're going to need an opportunity fund to give greater access to higher education and access to bursaries for future generations. It will be a fund for students in 20 years time to give them

more opportunities.

"It will be for all sorts of things for that big agenda; giving students support, employability, access to higher education, a whole package of things.

"It could be for students to come from around the world, or to allow students to visit the Amazon for purposes of field work.

"That's the thing that I want to start in terms of something tangible."

The countdown to the 50th "birth year" has already started with a clock counting down the minutes to October 1, 2014, when the celebrations begin.

Pressing the start button was not so easy, however, as many of the staff involved were overseas.

Prof Mander said: "I and a couple of other colleagues were in America, the vice-chancellor was hosting a reception for the student's union sabbatical officers elsewhere in Canterbury, so I said well we can't do it.

"Then someone had the idea we could do it by Skype. So I was in a hotel in San Francisco, and a colleague in Brussels, a colleague in Medway, a colleague in Canterbury and the vice-chancellor in south Canterbury.

"It was symbolic of the change that I wanted to make in the way we do things. You don't have to be present physically if you can be present through the power of technology."

Along with the Kent Opportunity Fund, other projects celebrating the 50 years, including an oral history project, which will feature footage of the university and interviews, will be held throughout the year, although full details are yet to be released.

SNAPSHOT IN UNIVERSITY'S TIME



ICONIC images of the first group of students in 1965 have been recreated by students in 2013, to highlight the differences and similarities between then and now.

The photographs will be used as part of the 50th campaign to show how far the university has come.

The image of the 1965 students arriving on their first day alongside the 2013 picture shows some similarities, but the students' cases are instead replaced by holdalls, a duvet and a bike.

The man taking a picture in the background of the modern reconstruction is using a phone to do so instead of a camera.

The second image, of students posing, shows a much more ethnically diverse mix of students in 2013.

A folder held in 1965 has been replaced with a laptop in the modern image and a guitar has been replaced with a smartphone, which can hold music.

Prof Mander said: "They document in a way some of the things that have changed and some of the things that haven't changed about what the university is doing."



THE WAY THEY WERE:

New pictures taken by University of Kent students recreate those taken of the campus' first-ever in-take in October 1965



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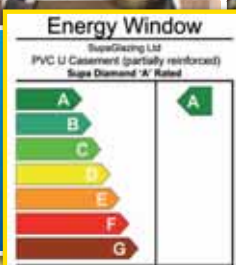
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Sport editor **Greg Miles** takes a look at a turbulent week for the county's only Football League side in the latest managerial merry-go-round

Taylor back in the hot seat as Allen pays for Gills' slow start

THEY say there's never a dull moment in football, and supporters of Gillingham will certainly feel that way this week after the whirlwind of change blew through the club's Priestfield home.

After another defeat last Saturday – making it just two wins in their opening 11 league games – Gills manager Martin Allen received a phone call 24-hours later from chairman Paul Scally; his contract was being terminated.

A popular figure with fans, the decision was seen by many as a major blow.

Mr Scally, who had flown back to his home in Dubai following the 2-0 defeat at Shrewsbury, admitted the call had been tough to make to someone he considers a good friend.

Martin Allen – nicknamed 'Mad Dog' during his playing days – had led the Gills to their first league title in 49 years last season, as they finished top of League Two.

But the League One campaign began with the club struggling to pick up points and crashing out of two cup competitions.

Determined the Gills would not face a relegation battle this season, Mr Scally took direct action and sacked him.

The 48-year-old had been in the post for just 16 months.

No sooner had the news broken on the club's official website, speculation began as to who would be the replacement.

And immediately rising to the top was the name of ex-boss and Kent football favourite, Peter Taylor.

Mr Taylor, a former England and Tottenham winger, had enjoyed spells in charge of both Dartford and Dover Athletic during the mid-1980s to mid-1990s.

By Monday afternoon, Mr Taylor, 60, had been installed as 'interim' boss and will guide the club this weekend.

The last time Taylor managed at Priestfield was back in 1999. Having won plaudits for his work with the England's Under-21s, he joined the Gills and led the club to the Championship after a 3-2 victory over Wigan Athletic in the League One play-off final at Wembley Stadium.

But he didn't get to enjoy the fruits of his success – instead, being poached by then-Premiership Leicester City.

He went on to become temporary boss of the senior England

squad, albeit for just one game, following Kevin Keegan's departure in 2000 – famously making David Beckham captain of his country for the first time. He then stood aside as Swede Sven-Goran Eriksson took over.

However, in recent years he had fallen out of the limelight, his last major post being boss of the Bahrain national side.

But now he faces perhaps his toughest test in steering Gillingham to League One stability.

Chairman Paul Scally said: "In my mind, assistant manager John Schofield was going to be running the team for a few games. But then I was asked by someone about Peter Taylor.

"I do speak to Peter once a month or so and have done for a number of years.

"He's a friend of mine. I called him up on Monday afternoon and asked him what he was up to. I thought he was with the FA, but he's not.

"I asked whether he would be interested in coming in on a short-term basis.

"Instead of Peter saying no, he went away and thought about it, then agreed."

Mr Scally admits he'd already had about 30 applications in the short time the job was vacant.

He added: "I know Peter will take good care of the club and the team and will prepare them and play a different kind of system. He knows the club well.

"Generally, I think that going back to previous managers is not a good idea. That will be in my mind should Peter throw his hat into the ring for the job on a permanent basis.

"Thirteen years is a long time. He is probably a different manager; a better manager now. We'll have to see.

"I didn't want him to go at the time. When Leicester came in they were in the Premier League and we were in the Championship.

"I couldn't deny him that opportunity. I could only support him in that. He always appreciated that. I could have made life diffi-

“ I think that going back to previous managers is not a good idea. That will be in my mind should Peter throw his hat into the ring for the job on a permanent basis ”

Paul Scally, Gillingham chairman on interim boss Peter Taylor taking top job





LONG DEPARTED: Paul Scally (left) sacked Gills boss Martin Allen (right) after the club's poor start this season. All photographs: ADY KERRY

cult for him. I knew it was a chance for him to go to the Premier League and make a lot of money."

All of which will come as little comfort for Martin Allen, however.

Mr Scally denies there was any personality clash between the pair.

"Absolutely not," he told KoS, "I have no issue with him at all; I like Martin. I have liked him for a number of years and I shall continue to like him. It makes making such a decision so much harder.

"He was out here in Dubai in the summer playing in the pool with my children. That's the kind of relationship we have. I'm still confident it was the right decision."

Peter Taylor, who previously had taken over the Gillingham hot seat from Tony Pulis – who would go on to lead Stoke City to the Premiership – is likely to be an appointment welcomed by fans, despite concerns over his decision to quit so soon after securing them promotion in 2000.

Speaking this week to KoS, he confirmed he would be interested in taking the job on a full-time basis.

Mr Taylor said: "I would definitely throw my hat in the ring, without a doubt.

"The chairman knows what I'm about. I had a fantastic year there before. I'm happy to be here on a temporary basis for now.

"I'm really looking forward to it. I know it's difficult to follow a popular manager, I understand all that. Everything will be done respectfully. I'm looking forward to it."

Mr Taylor insists the first contact he had with Mr Scally about the job was on Monday.

However, the speed of his appointment led to mounting speculation talks had taken place in the days leading up to the decision.

Mr Taylor had been spotted at Priestfield earlier this season – in what he insisted was a scouting mission for another club. Mr Scally

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also insists no conversation over the role had taken place prior to Monday afternoon.

Whatever the truth, it means the club were rudderless for less than 24 hours.

Mr Taylor took training for the first time on Tuesday.

He added: "Hopefully, the players will all respond positively. I know, ideally, everybody would like to be up the table. It's a tough division to be in."

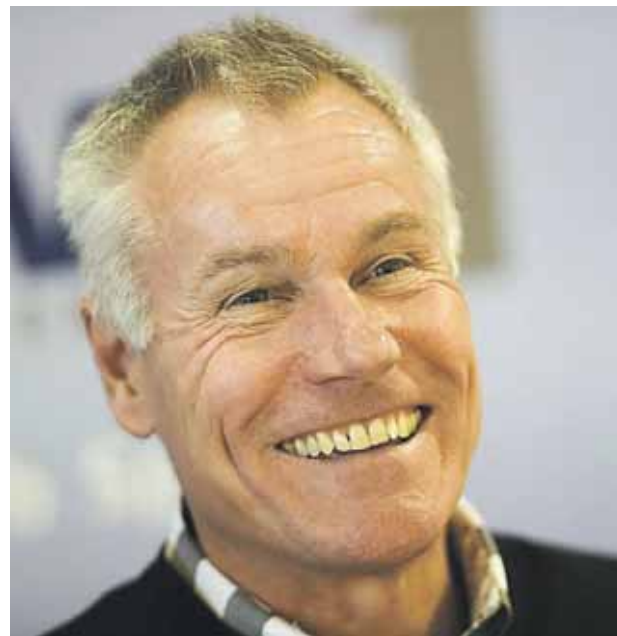
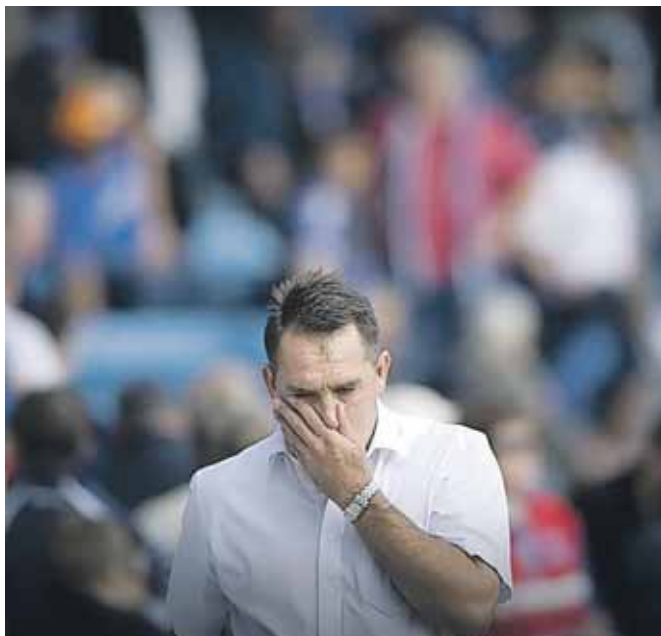
In a statement issued via the League Managers' Association this week, out-going manager Martin Allen said he was "extremely proud" of his time at the club.

He said: "It goes without saying that I am deeply disappointed to have been relieved of my managerial duties, having enjoyed some fantastic results in my 16 months in charge.

"I leave Gillingham with some fantastic memories and I am extremely proud to have guided the club to the League Two title in that time, their first title in nearly 50 years.

"Any club who achieves promotion will face challenges moving up a level, so it is with regret I have been dismissed after just six league losses this season. With two great wins from our last three matches I was extremely confident we would meet our league targets this campaign.

"I wish the players the very best for the rest of the season and I thank them for the hard work they have put in and the great attitude they have shown throughout my time in charge. I would like to thank the staff and fantastic supporters with whom I have enjoyed a wonderful relationship."



UPS AND DOWNS: Martin Allen's sacking has seen former England and ex-Gillingham boss Peter Taylor (right) take on the role of interim manager

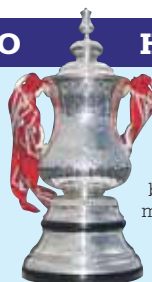
FA CUP DRAW SEES LOCAL RIVALS GO

FIVE of the county's non-league sides will be battling for a place in the FA Cup first round later this month after the draw was made earlier this week.

And there was one mouthwatering clash which pits Conference South side Ebbsfleet United with

Conference Premier neighbours Dartford in a straight shoot-out for a place in the next round.

The two sides will meet at Fleet's Stonebridge Road, with the prize the chance of pulling a



HEAD-TO-HEAD IN PURSUIT OF GLORY

league side in the next round – possibly even Gillingham.

Fans of Chatham Town will be hoping to make a little modern history too.

The last time the club reached the last stages of

this competition was back in 1931. They entertain St Albans at home hoping to go one better.

Elsewhere, Dover Athletic play Oxford City, while Welling United travel away to Brislington.

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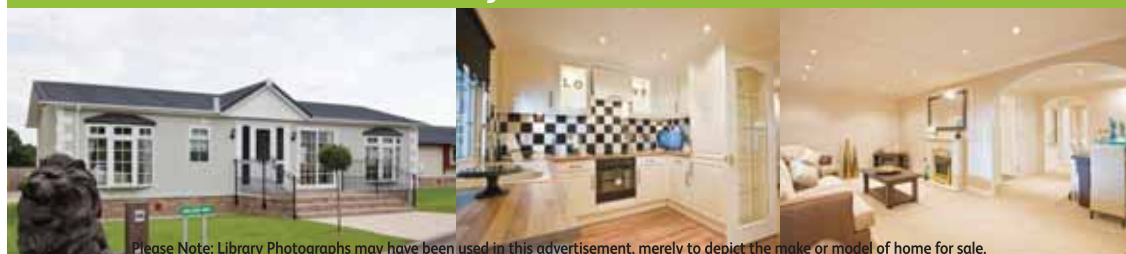
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GOOD CROP:
Robert Maslinski picks apples
at the National Fruit Collection
Pictures: ADY KERRY

Perseverance bears fruit

Growers are given a second bite of the apple as science, climate change and good old fashioned hard work combine to create a resurgence in the popularity of the delicious English fruit. **Joe Bill** reports.

GOOD things, they say, come to those who wait – and so it would seem with this year's apple harvest.

Because courtesy of the long, wet winter and sun-drenched summer, Kent's orchards have only started offering up their fruit in recent weeks – the latest harvesting period since 1985.

Yet the results are well worth the wait. This year's crop are said to be firmer, sweeter and juicier than ever before – albeit perhaps a little smaller.

All of which will go a long way towards allowing local producers to capitalise on a growing wave of demand and expectation on the county's orchards.

Because after years of living in the shadow of their international rivals – which arrived on our shores backed with big money promotional campaigns – the Kentish apple is back on the fruit's top table.

The revolution has not been just through luck, however – although the changing climate in recent years has certainly paid a key part.

Scientific investigation into the management of orchards, long-term storage and the physiology of the fruit itself has led to UK-grown apples recapturing the attention of the British consumer and, as a consequence, the major retailers.



Where once it was all about Le Crunch and the invasion of French-grown Golden Delicious, now the loudest message is about varieties coming from the Garden of England.

"There has been a dramatic change in Kent orchards," explains Adrian Barlow, chief executive of English Apples and Pears Ltd, who also works with East Malling Research.

The centre has been widely praised for its consistent role in helping the nation's apple growers to perfect their cultivation techniques – allowing them to capitalise on a demanding market.

"If we look back at the 1990s," he said, "Cox apples were absolutely dominant, but then they began to lose out badly to imported Gala and Braeburn.

"Initially, we couldn't grow Gala and Braeburn successfully and we had to learn how. But with the development of an understanding of the sites that were most appropriate for those two varieties, an increased understanding of the management techniques, particularly when to pick and how to store, we began to produce some really great apples."

And that makes the biggest suppliers of apples – supermarkets – sit up and take notice.

Mr Barlow adds: "From Cox orchards we were starting to see an output of 25 to 30 tonnes per hectare with a first class grade out of 70 per cent [meaning the fruit is good enough for sale]. On that same land, replanted with Gala and Braeburn,

“If we look back at the 1990s, Cox apples were absolutely dominant but then they began to lose out badly to imported Gala and Braeburn”

Adrian Barlow,
on competition from importers

we are producing 50 or even 60 tonnes, with 90 per cent making the first class grade."

But, of course, there's much more to Kent's resurgence than simply seeing what the competition is doing and matching it.

The county's history is almost entwined with the apple.

It was during the Norman Conquest in 1066 when apples first became popular in the UK, but the Black Death of the 14th century and Wars of the Roses in the 15th saw apple production almost disappear.

It was not until Henry VIII instructed his fruiterer, Richard Harris, to identify and produce new varieties that the apple returned in force. And

it was Mr Harris' orchard in Teynham, between Sittingbourne and Faversham, which saw its rebirth.

Today, some 60 types of home-grown apples take their place on the shelves of supermarkets across the nation – with 60 per cent of the entire UK apple crop grown right here in Kent. This puts us on the frontline in the war against fruit imports and reinforces an agricultural backbone which has existed for centuries.

In an ever evolving modern world, such tradition is rather heartening.

So why is Kent leading a fresh resurgence in British-grown apples?

Behind the scenes, much is to do with a fundamental reshuffle of the organisations which act as trumpeters for our fruit.

Mr Barlow explains: "English Apples and Pears Ltd was established in 1989 when growers decided they wanted apple promotion to be split away from research and development. Previously all functions were undertaken by one organisation – the Apples and Pears Development Council."

The split meant the A&P Research Council could concentrate on the science side while promotional work was carried out by A&P Ltd. In short, it meant it could focus purely on shouting from the rooftops about the

strength of the home-grown crop.

Mr Barlow adds: "We act as the trade association for the English apple and pear industries, representing them in discussion with government, in Brussels and on committees.

"We undertake a great deal of promotional activity to get people eating apples, to promote the interest in growers to make sure nothing could disadvantage our growers."

Mr Barlow has put the new-found confidence in our apples down to a change in attitude from British consumers, demanding more and more home grown produce.

He explains: "We've seen a transformation in the last 10 years. As an organisation we have been successful in getting the message through to consumers that English apples really do taste better than those from anywhere else in the world. That is a big claim but it has been tested by any number of retailers and is the truth.

"That doesn't mean every apple grown here is going to be better than every apple produced overseas but on average we are going to have more taste in our apples than even the same varieties produced elsewhere."

Supermarkets may hold significant clout in most retail markets, but they remain at the mercy of the consumer. And when shoppers started insisting on fresh fruit grown locally, rather than flown in from thousands of miles away, they had to feed the demand.

"About seven or eight years ago we began to see some real concern expressed by consumers about the link between global warming, climate

change and greenhouse gas emissions connected with food," Mr Barlow explains, "and as a result there was a surge in demand for local supplies and the replacement of imports.

"Retailers therefore wanted to source greater supplies of English apples. That gave a lot of confidence to the industry. So we said to the supermarkets 'you need to be talking to your growers and suppliers about the volume of product that you want and the varieties, and you need to be developing long-term plans with them'.

"Growing apples is not a short-term business. It's a crop that requires investment because the trees are going to be in the ground for 15 years or more. These long-term plans, which most of the chain stores now have in place, have been absolutely fundamental in giving growers the confidence to invest once more."

Another key development behind the resurrection of the British apple industry was the new ability to supply supermarkets with home-grown apples all year round, something that has never been done before.

Mr Barlow added: "Going back 20 years, supermarkets were saying there were two seasons, the European and English, from August to April, moving into southern hemisphere for the rest of the year.

"Around 13 years ago the advice from East Malling Research was not to store English apples beyond the end of January, where the imports then took over. But there's been enormous improvement in understanding the physiology of apples.

"Cold stores are now absolutely air tight and computer controlled –

“ When people were doing their shopping five years ago they weren't looking for English produce but it has now become fashionable ”

Charlie Fermor,
on our changing habits

meaning the atmosphere and temperatures will be maintained at exactly the right levels for the varieties of apple being stored."

Because of the technological improvements to storage, a Kentish grown Gala apple picked in September can be put on sale as late as the following June.

"Supermarkets know the consumers want local suppliers if they can get them and now they are saying 'if you can supply us with English all year round, providing there is no deterioration in quality, we will sell for as long as you can supply us'."

The rise in stature of the English apple has allowed for new businesses to flourish, however, there does still remain some bad feeling between orchard owners and the supermarkets who ditched them in favour of the overseas import. Especially when many farms are handed down through the generations.

Charlie Fermor runs Perry Court Farm near Ashford.

He remembers well the pain his parents suffered at the hands of su-



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VARIETY: The National Fruit Collection. Right, apple crisps from Perry Court



permarkets and says now 90 per cent of the apples he grows go for wholesale or straight to farmers' markets across the south east and London.

"About 20 years ago," he remembers, "My mum and dad supplied everything to supermarkets. But then big retailers turned a bit nasty and started dropping prices and doing big offers to the detriment of the farmer."

"So my father decided to stop supplying them completely. The supermarkets really started taking a stranglehold so we had to start doing everything ourselves."

"We were selling direct to the consumer through our farm shops and a few shops in London and the farmers' markets which are now going strong."

The family team at Perry Court also decided to branch out on the range of goods they could offer, creating higher value products like apple juices and pies.

Most recently, Mr Fermor came up with apple crisps – which now sell across the world, with stockists as far

afield as Australia and Japan.

So has the supermarkets' change in stance tempted Mr Fermor to return to doing business with them?

"Supermarkets have come back around," he admits. "We have been approached about our apples and the apple crisps by several supermarkets and so far we have declined because we want to build it up slowly."

"I was just playing around practicing on apples and drying them and one of the design products that worked was the apple crisps."

"I took the gamble, bought a load of machinery from the States and just went for it and it paid off quite well."

"Because of our avoidance of the supermarkets, to get the volume of products sold up we wanted to look abroad. From a business point of view it has been really good because anything that goes abroad has been money up front."

"The way the pound was means the crisps are competitively priced and shipping is really cheap."

To underline the farm's success, thousands of people will be flocking to its annual Apple Fayre taking place this weekend.

Among the many attractions will be some 150 varieties of the fruit.

Adds Mr Fermor: "The apple industry as a whole is definitely rising. I think A&P Ltd have done really well with the supermarkets as they are now promoting them quite heavily."

"You only have to look at the adverts on TV to see the nod to locals."

"In addition, there are a lot of people on TV, like celebrity chefs, backing local produce. It becomes embedded in the public's conscience."

"When people were doing their shopping five years ago they weren't looking for English produce but it has now become fashionable; people want to buy local."

When it comes to a variety of apples, you need look no further than Brogdale Farm near Faversham – home of the National Fruit Collection. It stores some 2,300 varieties.

Not only a tourist attraction to 13,000 visitors annually, Brogdale is also seen globally as a genetic bank, or living museum, for apples.

This weekend is a busy time for them too. Tour guide at Brogdale, Mike Roser, will welcome more than 3,000 people to the orchards across this weekend's festival and believes its history is down to geography.

He said: "The National Fruit Collection represents Britain's contribution to genetic global resources as we look to our food for the future."

"If you go back 500 years, you are looking at the development of the first

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structured orchards in Henry VIII's time, that was local to Faversham.

"This is because the Kent fruit belt and its location falls in the warmer part of the temperate band. The geological structure is also important with good drainage. It's an amalgamation of all these things that means the fruit quality here is excellent.

"The degree of climate change and the continuing influence this will have makes for a positive future."

Brogdale continues to be a resource for the global industry as the curators of the National Fruit Collection continue to analyse the various species of apple, as well as the changing climate's effects on it.

Mr Roser explains: "It is the physiology of the tree that is important. In conjunction with the curators' objectives, our scientists look at understanding the changes climatically; the ingredients that are important in growing, during sunlight hours, temperature and precipitation. It is important because it will influence all crops, not only fruit, for the future."

Mr Roser, who has been a guide for 10 years and previously worked in the industry, believes the resurgence of the English apple industry is partly down to the economic dip forcing supermarkets to re-examine their relationship with local growers.

"People know there are English fruit varieties out there, so there is already pressure on the market to offer those, instead of imported products."

"But, more importantly, the market place will now engage with slightly lower specifications of UK apple. A



“ People know there are English fruit varieties out there, so there is already pressure on the market to offer those instead of imported products ”

Mike Roser, pictured, on buying local produce

mixture of sizes is certainly something supermarkets didn't used to do.

"Small fruit didn't used to be part of the overall parameters, but it is now."

The horse meat scandal, Mr Roser says, was just the latest reason local people have become more interested in where their food is from and that stands to benefit local growers.

He explains: "The traceability of any product, whether it is a farm supply of meat or cereal or top fruit – the seller now needs to know where it has come from. A few years ago there wasn't the scrutiny on food products and there was more acceptability for what was available.

"But our fruit is now sitting along-



side that from other countries. This makes it hugely important to know every detail about spraying, labour and other reasons that could sway the decision of what people buy."

The apple harvest in 2013 is the latest it has been in nearly 30 years – five weeks behind 2012 – due to a long winter and poor spring. In the past, this anxious wait may have got growers a little hot under the collar as they prayed for a good harvest.

But the scientific research that has gone into apple growing is now advanced enough to allow those in the know to predict the size, flavour, texture and even colour of the apples that will arrive.

English A&P Ltd chief Adrian Barlow said: "We had a very cold winter and when temperatures did finally begin to warm up we had the coldest spring on record for 50 years. That meant flowering was late this year.

"The result is that we have a very late crop and our apple size – on average – is a little below the norm. But it's not all negative. Because the season has been so late, we have seen a big differential between day and night temperatures. This has put very good vibrant colour on our apples, so we have a good red this year.

"The sunshine during July and August has resulted in good sugar levels so the apples are very sweet.

"The cold weather early on gave the apples good texture and firmness, and the large amount of rain means we have good levels of juice.

"They look and taste outstanding although they are slightly smaller."

The future of the Kentish apple industry looks increasingly healthy as scientific advances are made in growing techniques. This is allowing investors and producers to develop better crops, to get a prominent place in the market and earn a bigger profit.

Mr Barlow adds: "A great deal of attention is being paid to nature. Actually planting the right fauna around the pack houses and the orchards, based on research from East Malling, will attract the right beneficial insects to feed on pests.

"That reduces the need for chemical usage, and we know that's what consumers want."

The English A&P Ltd is also very keen to capitalise on its success and export products to other countries in the very near future. Next in its sights is the Asian market – a remarkable reversal given it was the invasion of international fruit in years gone by which caused so much damage to the home-grown crop.

Mr Barlow added: "We actually export very little at the moment. Some Bramley apples go into Europe. There have also been small quantities of Kent apples into the Far East, but that is something which will grow.

"People are looking at the opportunities to take them abroad and it makes sense to increase production. We will see it developing gradually into the Far East and Middle East.

"The UK apple industry today is in such stark contrast to 15 years ago when there was real depression."

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Why debate is obscuring real picture

Following our major report into immigration last week, **Martin Whybrow**, Green KCC member for Hythe, believes many concerns are caused by political point scoring, leading us to miss the key underlying issues



AHEAD of the lifting of EU employment restrictions on Romania and Bulgaria at the start of next year, there will be a lot of scaremongering and misinformation.

The appearance last week of a study on the topic by Kent County Council, as reported in KoS, brought a taste of what is to come.

It was a relatively even-handed report, certainly more so than some recent ones from KCC, such as on fracking and aviation.

But it was no surprise that Ukip highlighted the estimates it liked, talking up these, and ignoring others, particularly where related to the relatively light use of public services and economic benefits of immigrants.

The lack of any reliable estimates on the number of immigrants means there is a big hole in the report.

With this in mind, there is a question of why it was commissioned. The timing (April) might give a hint, as it is likely that the brief flame that is Ukip was starting to



flicker and was rightly causing concern for the Tories at KCC ahead of the county elections at the start of May. Perhaps the commissioning of the report was meant to head off any accusations of unpreparedness.

There is also a theme about the possible increase in public service spending with any influx, so the reason for the report might be to build a case for going to central government and asking for more money. There is a lot of this at KCC at

present and I liken it to hunting behind the sofa cushions for loose change.

This is what local authorities have been reduced to by the sustained cuts (which, by the way, are more damaging than any pressure from the arrival of a few more people to our shores).

The hype is dangerous. Often, immigration is the easy thing to grasp but it masks the real problems.

The chronic lack of social housing, for instance, isn't due to immigrants, it stems from years of ineptitude from successive governments, but you wouldn't know that listening to some politicians or newspapers.

Exacerbating the problem is the fact the Conservative Party increasingly doesn't devise policies based on

merit but as a reaction to Ukip's potential to take away votes. This is a government that believes it is acceptable to put an advertising board on the back of a van and drive round London telling people to go home.

It is a government that devises a bill forcing NHS workers and others to check the status of immigrants seeking to use their services.

Many in Ukip oppose foreign aid, oppose subsidies for renewable energy and deny climate change.

However, if you do not address the world's massive inequalities then you will always have the mass movement of people seeking a better life.

And if we don't get serious on climate change soon then the current movement of people is nothing to what will occur in the future, as parts of the planet are made uninhabitable.

Immigration should be a choice, not a necessity but this, as with so much other commonsense, is likely to be swamped in a messy, unifying scrap between Ukip and the Tories between now and the European, then general, elections.

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Artist dives back home as sculptures create a splash

Chris Murphy talks to the Canterbury man behind these stunning works of art, created in order to rejuvenate a fragile marine ecosystem off the coast of Mexico



ASK WHERE most artists like to perform and the majority will discuss overlooking an inspirational landscape.

Few, however, will say they found their perfect canvas below the sea – but for the last few years, one artist has spent his time creating a remarkable village of sculptures some eight metres under the water.

Jason deCaires Taylor has created more than 500 personal sculptures of people and various items. And as our pictures show, the results are stunning. All are sited in the turquoise clear waters off the coast of Cancun and form part of a series of separate works which, combined, are designed to literally breathe new life into the waters by encouraging marine life to flourish.

Now the 39-year-old is swapping the sun for the chill autumnal air of his home town as he prepares to jet back to Canterbury later this month, where he will return to his studio.

Not that he is any stranger there either. In 2008 he created and installed an eye-catching work entitled *Alluvia*. It consisted of two female figures, cast in cement and recycled glass resin, installed beneath the shallow waters of the Stour as it

flowed through Westgate Gardens. Lying along the river flow and fixed to the river bed, they were lit internally.

But it is his stunning underwater work in Mexico – designed to save marine ecosystems – for which he is best known.

The idea is for the statues to gradually be absorbed by the sea and its wildlife.

He said: “One piece is a figure standing at a lectern. It is propagated with more than 200 fragments of *acropora prolifera*, a hybrid species of staghorn coral and elkhorn coral.”

As part of a similar project in the same waters, is *The Man on Fire* – which depicts a solitary burning figure.

The artist explained: “Fixed to an arrangement of stainless steel spines, it has been extensively propagated with live fire coral known as *millepora alcicornis*.

“The fast growing, bright yellow species which, besides its appearance, gains its name from being able to inflict a painful burn-like sting to human skin. Using black pH neutral marine cement the piece depicts self-immolation and represents a dramatic, stark protest to the loss of natural marine habitats. Over time the fire is

predicted to engulf the figure in a bright yellow patina.”

And the statue showing a figure appearing to walk with a long flowing cape behind them was one of the toughest pieces to complete.

Known as the *Resurrection*, it was one of the final pieces to be installed.

He explains: “Using a live purple gorgonian fan coral called *gorgonia flabellum*, which had been displaced and rescued from the reef system after recent storm activity, the *Resurrection* represents a female-avian form emerging from the seabed.

“The winged armature houses specially designed clamps for fan coral and its orientation towards the currents maximises the coral’s potential to draw nutrients from the water column. It embodies the concept of re-birth and regeneration and the offering of hope that humans can affect change in a positive direction.”

These are among the new series of works that have been unveiled by the artist in Mexico at the MUSA, or Museo Subacuático de Arte. Opened in 2009, it is a remarkable underwater contemporary museum of art formed in the waters surrounding Cancun, Isla Mujeres and Punta Nizuc.

Mr Taylor is a founder of what is

now one of the largest and most ambitious underwater artificial art attractions in the world.

A spokesman for the museum explains: “We aim to demonstrate the interaction between art and environmental science and form part of a complex reef structure for marine life to colonise and inhabit while increasing biomass on a grand scale.

“All of the sculptures are fixed to the seabed and made from specialised materials used to promote coral life. The installations occupy an area of more than 420sq meters of barren substrate and weigh in at more than 200 tonnes.”

The Cancun-Isla Mujeres Marine Park is one of the most visited stretches of water in the world, with over 750,000 visitors each year, placing immense pressure on its resources. The location of the sculptures promotes the recovery of the natural reefs as it relieves pressure on them by drawing visitors away to an alternative site.

Now, however, as the final addition to the project settles into its underwater environment in Mexico, it is time for the artist to return to Canterbury to recharge his batteries and enjoy a well-deserved rest.



“ All the sculptures are fixed to the seabed and made from specialised materials used to promote coral life. They cover 420sq metres of barren substrate and weigh 200 tonnes ”

Cancun marine park, on the scale of the underwater art

THE MAN BEHIND THE ART...

Born in 1974 to an English father and Guyanese mother, Mr Taylor grew up in Canterbury while also experiencing regular trips to Asia.

After finishing school in Kent he attended Camberwell College of Arts in London where he graduated in 1998 with a degree in sculpture and ceramics.

On his visits to Asia he became hooked on the coral

reefs of Malaysia, which inspired him to become a fully qualified diving instructor and underwater naturalist.

Uniting his passions, he began creating sculptures underwater. He also developed a reputation as an award-winning underwater photographer – capturing the effect his sculpture has on the marine life around it.

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The saviour of thousands of Allied troops during World War Two, the Medway Queen's lottery-funded restoration has raised questions as to its role once it returns to the county, reports **Chris Murphy...**

THE organisation behind the restoration of a paddle steamer which helped save thousands of lives during the daring Dunkirk rescue mission during World War Two, has been forced to defend itself amid mounting claims the work is a waste of time, money and effort.

It comes on the eve of her emotional return to the county after months of painstaking work in Bristol.

The Medway Queen was one of the huge flotilla repeatedly sent across the English Channel to help evacuate the beaches at Dunkirk during the Allies retreat following the first invasion of mainland Europe in 1940.

She is credited with saving 7,000 lives and was one of the last to make the dangerous trip.

So many owed their lives to her, she was nicknamed 'the heroine of Dunkirk'.

But after several decades of ferrying passengers across the Thames and Medway estuaries, the Medway Queen suffered a humiliating decline and she was left to rot.

However, thanks to the tireless efforts of a few dedicated and passionate people who wanted to bring her back to life, the Queen is finally set for a triumphant return, via the south coast waters, to the Medway.

Courtesy of cash from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the generosity of the public – as well as funding from the GMB union – the boat has been undergoing restoration in dry dock in Bristol.

It will eventually return to a life off Gillingham Pier.

But while a tug is prepared for the five-day journey back towing the craft – the exact date will be at least partially dependant on the weather – those behind the project have been forced on the back foot.

One critic of the project is Chris Brady from Middlesex.

Mr Brady told this newspaper: "What has been kept very quiet is that she will not be licensed to carry passengers. And also despite urgent public appeals for cash, her engines will be very rarely steamed, if at all."

"This is because the Heritage Lottery Fund insisted that the new hull of riveted steel be constructed to the original plans."

"Therefore she lacks the modern safety requirements of passenger carrying vessels: she is top-heavy, from the rivets, and she lacks watertight bulkheads."

"So I question as to why she was lottery funded in the first place?"

"As a static exhibit, she might do as floating café, a nightclub or a wedding venue, but as a passenger-carrying paddle steamer she is an abject failure."

"The funding of this 'new build' brings the genuine restoration of our heritage transport into disrepute."

And Gavin Atkin, who produces the Intheboatshed website, added: "I think a lot of us would like to see her making regular scheduled passenger excursions, but it seems clear the society doesn't know whether it will be able to achieve this result, and is anxious that it might not be financially viable."

"My main concern would be that not running excursions would limit



Dunkirk 'heroine' faces new attack over funding

the boat's contribution to local life.

"Also, my observation is that craft that are not in regular use tend to fall into disrepair in just a few years – and I hope that's not what happens to the Medway Queen."

A spokesman for the Heritage Lottery Fund confirmed it had pushed for the boat to once again return to being able to carry passengers.

It told KoS: "The Medway Queen is on the register of National Historic Ships and will be authentically restored to preserve her historic character and design in keeping with a vessel of her significance"

"The decision to carry or not carry

passengers has been taken by the Medway Queen Preservation Society.

"We have encouraged the society to consider a 50 passenger-carrying certificate as part of the work, but they have taken the decision not to go down that route."

But the preservation society is angry with the negative claims.

It insists no decision has yet been taken about any return to providing a passenger service, but hinted if it did it would be occasional rather than regular.

Richard Halton from the society confirmed the hull has been rebuilt using traditional methods and in a form very close to the original 1924 design, as agreed with the lottery and National Historic Ships to preserve an historic artefact rather than to build a modern replica.

He said: "We will return the ship to working order and show her in pre-war condition."

"The hull is of riveted construction; it has one extra bulkhead added to improve its watertight resilience and provision has been made for modern toilets and other services. The ship has always been of riveted construction and there is no reason why she should now suddenly become 'top-heavy' as has been claimed."

"It is true there will be issues re-

garding her licensing for carrying passengers, but this has by no means been 'kept quiet'.

"The matter has been openly discussed over the years. It is a conundrum to which there is no easy answer, but the society believes it has achieved a reasonable balance."

"The exact nature of her future employment and the extent to which passengers might be carried has not been finalised. It is true to say, however, that we do not expect to run a service back and forth across the estuary as the ship did in the past."

"This would not be possible without a redesign, compromising the historical accuracy and character of the rebuild, especially since, even in 1924, there was some question as to her compliance with the required standards. Besides the technical and regulatory issues there are good commercial reasons why a regular service across the estuary will not happen."

"Most historic vessels that operate in the UK and elsewhere survive only because of a huge volunteer input and donations and supporting grants from outside the operating organisation. The operation of vessels such as this is no longer commercially viable."

"To look at specifics: if a steam ship operation on the Medway could be made to pay it would not have been

necessary to move the Kingswear Castle [a paddle steamer which once operated on the River Medway] back to the River Dart."

He also warned the society faces more challenges ahead.

Mr Halton said: "We have to fit-out the ship's interior as well as the upper assembly of the main engine as well as to restore the auxiliary machinery that it needs in order to function."

"Our priorities will be the aft saloon which can be used as a dining space and the engine room so the ship can steam again and improve her as an attraction for visitors."

"A further major item of expenditure will be a boiler which will be an efficient modern unit. To achieve this the society has a great deal of work to do and will need not only money, but willing volunteers skilled in the crafts needed for ship restoration and also in the administrative and organisational roles that come with operating an historic tourist attraction."

For more details see the website www.medwayqueen.co.uk.

• **What do you think?** Share your opinions by contacting The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smethth, Ashford, TN25 6SS.

“We’ve encouraged the society to consider a passenger-carrying certificate as part of the work, but they’ve taken the decision not to go down that route”

Heritage Lottery Fund on the issue of the vessel's use



THE COST OF RENOVATION

THE Heritage Lottery Fund awarded the project £1.86 million.

Richard Halton of the preservation society said: "We had to add partnership funding so you can say the hull cost around £2.5m.

"On top of that we had great support from the European Regional Development Fund for the Gillingham Pier base and the apprentice workshops there have produced a lot of additional work that has been shipped to Bristol and added to the hull.

"We have also refurbished the major

components of the engine, crankshaft and paddles which was outside of the lottery funding. We do, of course, have a lot more work to do when the ship returns. As things stand we also have a fund-raising hill to climb and we will be more dependent on volunteers in the foreseeable future.

"We are talking to a number of funding sources, but the rate at which we finish this job will be entirely constrained by the speed with which funding and voluntary effort can be found."

ONE BOAT'S REMARKABLE JOURNEY



BUILT at a Scottish boatyard in 1924, the Medway Queen was operated by the Medway Steam Packet Company.

It worked the 180ft-long, 50ft-wide vessel as a paddle steamer on the River Medway – a popular way to enjoy a trip along the river for both visitors and residents alike.

But it was the advent of World War Two where she would achieve immortality.

In one of the most daring rescues of the conflict, some 350,000 stranded Allied troops were rescued from Dunkirk in France, during a 10-day mass evacuation which ended on June 4, 1940 in an operation co-ordinated from Dover Castle.

Last year, survivor Alf George, a former anti-tank gunner told us: "I will never forget the debt I owe to the Medway Queen. That old lady against the harbour wall was one of the greatest sights of my life."

Mr George was just 20 when he was hauled on to the deck on the ship's penultimate crossing.

He said: "When we reached Dunkirk, we watched from the dunes for a day and night as the beach was attacked.

"There were no boats to be seen, just sunken ships and floating bodies. We didn't know how we were to get off.

"Then the next morning, an officer led me and about 15 other stragglers down to Dunkirk's long stone jetty.

"There were stretchers all along the length, hundreds of wounded and dead. But there were still no ships to be seen.

"We were under fire all the time, I couldn't see how we were supposed to escape. Then I looked down over the lip and saw this little old paddle steamer."

The 90-year-old from Ashford, said: "I call her my guardian angel. She is truly the heroine of Dunkirk."

But after her heroics and peace once more, she soon fell from view as she continued working as a ferry.

As the decades rolled by, costs to keep her afloat soared and the paddle steamer was soon replaced in 1963, by newer and more efficient vessels.

There was little appetite for nostalgia, and the Queen sank where she sat on the River Medway.

She may have survived the artillery and gunfire from German lines, but time took its toll on her fragile hull and she soon became a shattered shell of a once truly great craft.

In 1987, she was acquired, still as a sunken wreck, by the Medway Queen Preservation Society, and a new war started.

After years of public fund-raising, work was still painfully slow. She was in bits with the more valuable parts stashed in secret locations.

Work was boosted with the lottery money and the 'Heroes 2C' programme which gave trainees the opportunity to participate and learn essential trades while assisting the craft's revival.

She is due to return to Gillingham later this year.

SHIPSHAPE: The Medway Queen received £1.86 million of Heritage Lottery funding

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DREAM TEAM: Clangers founder Peter Firmin is working with Daniel Postgate, son of Oliver

Son whistles in the changes as Clangers return to planet Earth

By Chris Murphy

chris.murphy@kosmedia.co.uk

IT WILL bring a little warmth into a lot of souls as the dark nights draw in and the temperature drops – because one of the nation's best-loved children's shows is making a comeback.

The Clangers, devised in a shed near Canterbury by the creative duo who also gave us classics such as Bagpuss, Ivor the Engine and Noggin the Nog, will reach a new global audience after a £5 million deal was struck to bring the characters back to our screens.

The cute, knitted, space creatures – who communicated by a series of coos and whistles – became an instant success after the original show hit TV screens for just three years from 1969.

The Clangers had been created in order to capitalise on the huge interest in space travel at

the time, and the first manned trips to the Moon.

But it proved such a timeless classic it was repeated for years, entertaining generation after generation of children.

For those unfamiliar with them, the Clangers were small creatures living in peace and harmony on – and inside – a small, hollow planet, far, far away, nourished by blue string pudding, and green soup harvested from the planet's volcanic soup wells by the Soup Dragon.

They got their name from the sound made by the opening and closing of the old metal dustbin lids which covered their crater-like burrows.

The Soup Dragon and Iron Chicken will be included in the 'cast' along with other regulars Major, Granny, Tiny the girl, Small the boy and Mother.

But these minute TV stars sprang to life rather closer to home – at the workshop of Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin in Blean.

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SMALLFILMS – THE CLASSICS

Among the series created by Peter Firmin and Oliver Postgate were...

BAGPUSS

THE old, saggy cloth cat (baggy and a little loose at the seams) so beloved by millions has his roots deep in Kent.

Emily, who owned the shop in which Bagpuss lived and came alive, was in fact Peter Firmin's daughter and the famous scene of the outside of the shop was in fact Mr Firmin's home in Blean.

In 1999, it was named the nation's favourite children's TV programme in a poll for the BBC. Just 13 episodes were made and all originally broadcast between February and May 1974.

The original Bagpuss is on display at the Canterbury Heritage Museum.



IVOR THE ENGINE

CHARTING the adventures of a small green locomotive in the "top left-hand corner of Wales", it was the first show to spring from Smallfilms' Blean base, with the first series, in black and white, broadcast in 1959.

It returned for a second series some 11 years later when an additional 40 episodes were broadcast, in colour, between 1975 and 1977.

Original artwork's on show at Canterbury Heritage Museum.



NOGGIN THE NOG

FIRST broadcast in 1959, central character Noggin was the simple good-natured son of Knut, King of the Nogs, who must find a wife to prevent his uncle taking over the throne.

It featured a host of magical elements such as dragons and talking birds.

It returned in 1979 for a short run extending into 1980. Original artwork is on show in Canterbury too.



The duo became famous for their remarkable ability to create characters which connected with children throughout the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s.

Mr Postgate passed away, aged 83, at a Broadstairs nursing home in December 2008, prompting a huge surge in tributes by those who had grown up watching programmes made by Smallfilms, the firm he and Mr Firmin ran out of a disused cowshed in Blean.

And the good news is those famous surnames will figure strongly again in the return of the Clangers.

Illustrator and model maker Peter Firmin, who designed the creatures and whose wife Joan knitted the originals, will be the executive producer of the new series, while Daniel Postgate, son of the late Oliver, who lives in Whitstable, will be putting the script together.

The new series will continue to use the stop-go animation of the original, while embracing all the new technology at their disposal.

It should be back on our screens – via the BBC's CBeebies channel – in 2015.

Speaking to KoS from his home in Blean, Mr Firmin said: "It was 44 years ago we made the Clangers – a long time now."

He revealed a remake had been on the cards for some time.

He said: "The Americans wanted to do it. An American TV company were interested in it and the BBC came in later.

"It won't be shown for a while. It's going to be a long job making it.

"I won't be making it like before; it will be done by another proper animation company in the old-fashioned way."

Peter Firmin met Oliver Postgate while he was teaching at London's Central School of Art.

Mr Postgate arrived looking for a partner to illustrate a television show and a partnership was formed which would redefine children's television.

Mr Postgate narrated the stories, including the Clangers, and now the race is on to find a distinctive replacement voice.

Mr Firmin, now 84, said: "They have an idea of who to ask, but I don't have a preference. I am waiting to see who they can find."

The show will be re-made in a joint venture between CBeebies, media company Coolabi, Smallfilms and a American 24-hour pre-school network called Sprout.

It will be shown around the world thanks to ties with BBC Worldwide, and promises to delve deep in to the Clangers' subterranean world of tunnels and caverns.

As well as the Soup Dragon, who distributes green soup from the soup wells, and Iron Chicken,

who prefers scoffing nuts and bolts, there will be the Glow Buzzers, who create a magical light inside the caves.

And then there's the mischievous Froglets and plenty more peculiar creatures.

The makers said it will be a "simple, sometimes surreal, but always harmonious world of fun, imagination, exploration and invention, which pre-schoolers and parents alike will enjoy over and over again".

They will be concentrating on the importance of community, caring for the planet and encouraging and nurturing a sense of wonder and natural curiosity.

Daniel Postgate added: "There will be 52 episodes, all 11 minutes long and be both UK and US versions as they have a language difference over there.

"Production work will be in a week or so starting at Factory Studios in Manchester.

"Peter and I will be going up there to oversee things, but at this stage we are all singing from the same song sheet and everything is progressing really well.

"I am doing some of the script-writing and have lots of stories already sorted.

"Caring for the environment will be one of the core storylines, but this won't be Wombles in Space, although the Wombles are also coming back to our televisions at about the same time.

"I am champing at the bit to get going."

Mr Firmin said: "We hope to engage and entertain children of all ages and their families, just as Oliver and I did all those years ago.

"The new series will include great story-telling with lots of heart. It will also be technically improved.

"When you watch the original Clangers you have to make allowances for the limitations of the animation techniques when it was made.

"It was magical for its time, but this is a new Clangers for a new age."

Daniel Postgate added: "I've always loved Clangers. It is my favourite Smallfilms show. In fact, it is my favourite children's show of all time. I was about five-years-old when it was made – just the right age.

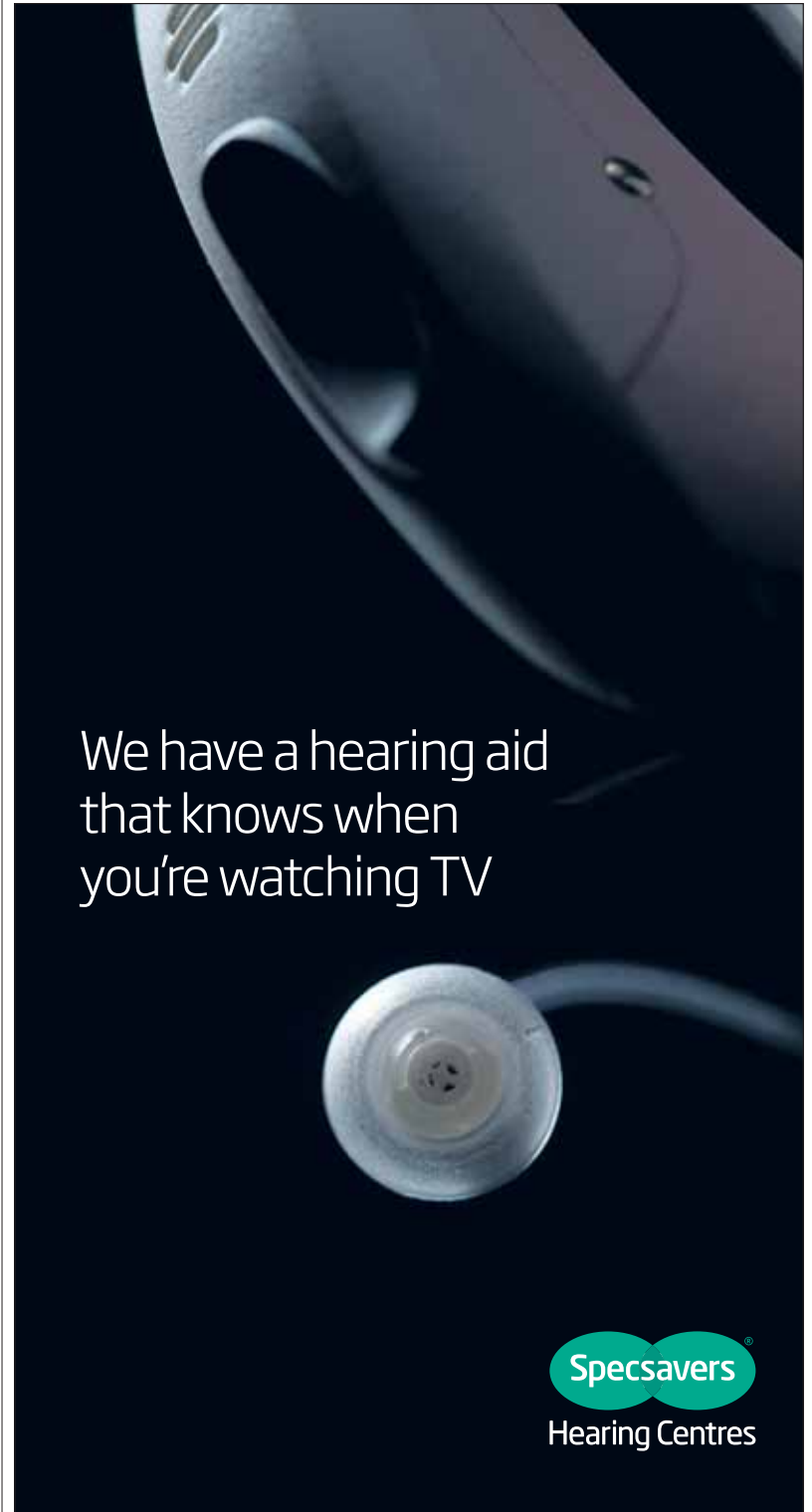
"The new Clangers is not something we've rushed into. It has been carefully considered.

"For me, this is a labour of love. We are very fortunate to get the very best people collectively to work on it, and we are all very enthusiastic."


Kay Benbow, controller of CBeebies, said: "Nostalgia is a funny thing, and we always think very carefully about remakes or re-imaginings of classic children's programmes.

"The Clangers is a programme that has an enduring magic. The new proposition has been built firmly upon the joyful foundations of the original, and will be produced by a team of exceptional talent which includes the extraordinary Peter Firmin. We are excited to bring this out-of-this-world series to our CBeebies audience."





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Hearing Centres

MP demands Southeastern is put on track to improve

After the train operator got the nod to extend its current franchise, an MP from the commuter belt is insisting on improvements.

Marijke Cox finds out more

WHEN transport chiefs at Whitehall announced a new franchise plan in which Southeastern would continue to run Kent's rail services until 2018, long-suffering passengers were left astounded.

They, along with many of Kent's MPs, had hoped the franchise would end in 2014 – following the controversial two-year extension by the Government – paving the way for a new firm to take over.

But instead, Southeastern – which has always strongly defended its services, arguing it has record levels of punctuality and customer satisfaction – saw its contract extended further by the Department for Transport, this time by four years.

The decision formed part of a major shake-up to the rail service by the Government. Following problems and legal challenges over another franchise, a revised timetable was rolled out which saw many franchises handed extensions to their existing deals – known as a 'direct award'.

With Southeastern's franchise one of the last on the new timetable to be decided upon, it was handed a generous four-year extension.

But while many rail users were critical of the move by the Department for Transport, claiming they are paying rising costs each year for deteriorating services in Kent, others have seen it as an opportunity to make sure the next four years are without the same problems.

MP for Tunbridge Wells, Greg Clark, working with the borough's Rail Travellers' Association, has written a letter to Charles Horton, managing director of Southeastern, with a list of demands to be met.

These include introducing season tickets for part-time workers using smartcard technology; reduced ticket prices for early morning commuters and later evening peak trains, to ease crowding at these times; ensuring there are 12 carriage trains on all peak services; late night trains on Friday and Saturday evenings; and more cycle storage.

He has also demanded a cut in station parking costs in his constituen-



“ It is unfair that passengers from Tunbridge Wells are having to pay a vast amount more for a season ticket than those from Eridge ”

Greg Clark MP,
on the disparity of rail fares

cy, an hourly all-day Gatwick-Tonbridge-Ashford service and the introduction of wifi on trains to enable passengers to utilise a reliable internet connection.

Perhaps one of the more significant requests, however, is his demand for line-by-line performance information.

A large portion of problems seen with Southeastern, say commuters, is the lack of up-to-date information, particularly during disruption. But this need for better communication comes only second in importance to another of Mr Clark's priorities – reducing the high cost of rail travel.

It is something which has remained a thorny, and seemingly irresolvable, issue in the county.

Referring specifically to a reduc-

tion in fares from Tunbridge Wells, High Brooms and Paddock Wood, Mr Clark asked that costs are brought in line with Southern Rail's pricing – which also runs services in part of west Kent and charges £1,464 less for its annual season ticket from nearby Eridge to London.

Mr Clark said cheaper rail fares were top of his list of priorities.

“Southeastern's contract is being extended for another four years so this is a great opportunity to tell them and the Department for Transport what improvements in service local rail passengers would like to see as part of that agreement,” he said.

“Unsurprisingly, reduced rail fares are top of the list – I would like our fares to move to be more in line with our neighbouring rail company.

“It is unfair that passengers from Tunbridge Wells are having to pay a vast amount more for an annual season ticket than those from Eridge.”

Mr Clark vowed to meet the managing director of Southeastern to press him for action on his priorities.

But it's not just Tunbridge Wells that suffers from high train fares.

Each year, commuters are faced with staggering hikes on tickets.

While prices are capped at RPI plus one per cent, Southeastern is allowed to increase fares by as much as five per cent more on some popular routes, as long as the average across

the county remains at inflation plus one per cent. It means despite July's inflation being set at 3.1 per cent and therefore an expected ticket rise of 4.1 per cent, some commuters on busy lines would face a massive hike of 9.1 per cent in January.

Things, however, are changing.

The Government has now said train operators will not be allowed to increase some fares by an additional five per cent and instead only by two per cent. It means commuters will face a maximum of a 6.1 per cent rise rather than 9.1 per cent in January.

While still a large hike, the Government hopes it will stop people being priced off the railway.

Transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin said: “By capping fares we are protecting passengers from large rises at a time when family incomes are already being squeezed.

“We will need to wait for the rail industry to calculate individual ticket prices for next year, but this cap could save some commuters as much as £200 a year.”

Southeastern said it welcomed the announcement and described it as “good news” for passengers.

The operator has always defended its price hikes, stating it is the Government which sets the average increase in regulated fares in order to ease the burden of the cost of the railways on the taxpayer.

FRANCHISE ROW

The Department for Transport has accused the RMT of “scaremongering” after the union claimed the new Thameslink franchise will lead to the loss of 500 jobs.

Next year, the routes currently served by Great Northern, Southern Railway and Thameslink (known as the First Capital Connect (FCC) route in Kent) – will combine under one franchise umbrella, using the Thameslink name. It will be the biggest franchise of its kind in the UK.

Both Southern and Thameslink already serve parts of the county, albeit small in comparison to the primary operator Southeastern.

The franchise could open the door to extended Thameslink services in Kent as part of the new contract. Maidstone East services have already been announced.

But the RMT union has voiced concern over a possible threat to jobs.

It claims the ‘invitation to tender’ document recommends for guards on trains to be axed and instead they will be driver-only operations.

The union also claims there will be “unspecified cuts” to ticket offices and station staffing.

But the Department for Transport has strongly denied this.

“This is ill-informed scaremongering from the RMT,” said a spokesman.

“As part of the new franchise we have asked bidders to consider how on-board staff can best be used to improve the travelling experience for passengers.

“Our specification does not require any staff to be made redundant.”

Southern serves a small, but busy part of west Kent including Tonbridge, Penshurst, Edenbridge and Hever as well as Ashford and Hamstreet in the centre of the county.

Its services travel to London, Surrey and along the south coast to Hastings and Brighton.

Thameslink – or FCC – runs joint services with Southeastern from stations including Ashford, Sevenoaks and Swanley, catering for the London/Kent border, with Bromley South and Catford among its stations.

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Torture of the two-wheeled 707-yard climb

Pictures: Ady Kerry

Words: Chris Britcher

CYCLING has always been a gruelling sport, but there are few more arduous challenges to take on two wheels than the iconic Catford Hill Climb near Sevenoaks.

A lung-busting 707-yard climb up the steepest of slopes, it remains a battle of remarkable physical exertion and mental toughness.

Steeped in history – it claims to be 'the oldest continuing cycle race in the world' – it is all over in a matter of minutes, yet attracts hundreds to witness the riders pitting their wits against the challenge.

And last weekend they faced the added strain of heavy rain and wind.

Yet the winner, Jack Puller, a national hill climb champion, completed the course in one minute 46.1 seconds – just seconds from the course

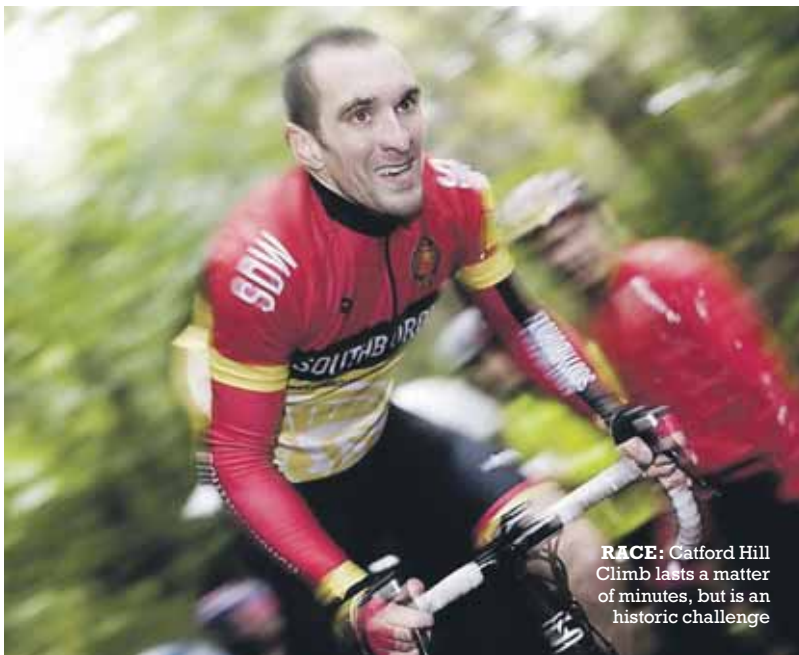
record. He came in seven seconds in front of nearest rival, and previous winner, Michael Smith.

An organiser explained: "This prestigious event goes all the way back to 1886 and, with the exception of the war years, has been run ever since, traditionally on the first Sunday in October, although this year on the second.

"Prior to the formation of the RTTC governing body it was considered to be the Championship of All England and still attracts the leading hill-climb riders from all over the country, be they professionals or amateurs.

"The challenge is Yorks Hill, a 707-yard climb with an average gradient of 12.5 per cent, with two stretches of 25 per cent. It requires an all-out lung bursting effort to get up the climb.

"This is not only a sporting spectacle viewed by many hundreds but is also a social occasion providing an opportunity for an annual cyclists' get together."



RACE: Catford Hill Climb lasts a matter of minutes, but is an historic challenge

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The fight for school places begins

Former head teacher **Peter Read** runs Kent Independent Education Advice. Here he takes a look at the issue of secondary school admissions ahead of the October 31 deadline for applications from parents



“ Whilst government policy allows popular schools to expand, there is a mirror consequence that those at the bottom of the pile are likely to spiral into further decline in numbers ”

Peter Read,
on the school places battle

THE face of secondary education in Kent is changing rapidly as government decisions allow popular schools to offer additional places to meet demand.

In Kent, with 75 per cent of secondary schools either academies or in the process of change, this freedom is producing dramatic results.

In 2013, schools created an additional 352 places by temporary or permanent expansion, most high profile being the west Kent grammars, where Judd, Skinners, Tonbridge Grammar and Weald of Kent Grammar each admitted an additional class of entry.

Less prominent were Skinners Kent Academy (30 more children) and Bennett Memorial School (16 more).

Most of these schools have not declared their intentions for admission next September, so parents are left uncertain of their chances of winning places at their school of choice.

Parental choice is, of course, even greater this year as the Trinity Free School in Sevenoaks joins the Kent admission scheme.

I anticipate that within two years this mix will also see the arrival of the proposed satellite grammar school in Sevenoaks.

The three new free schools, Trinity, Wye Free School, and Hadlow Rural Community School added a further 240 places, creating a total expansion of nearly 600 new places.

Not surprisingly, this saw Kent County Council able to claim the highest proportion of satisfied families in recent years, with a record high of 84 per cent of children getting their first choice school.

I anticipate that this trend will continue, as even more of the popular schools choose to admit more children, giving them additional finance and clout in the educational world.

Already for 2014 entry, with some of these schools making enlargements permanent, and others joining them, I count 525 additional places confirmed since 2012, with another 140 probable and others expected to join this great monopoly game.



The fastest expansion is at Valley Park School, Maidstone, which has added 60 places in the past two years, with the largest Kent school, Home-wood in Tenterden, ensuring it keeps its crown by expanding its intake from 360 to 390 students over the same period.

Other major changes are at Folkestone and Wilmington academies, each increasing by 30 students.

Two consequences of these changes are, firstly, that parents have lost a great deal of certainty about their admission choices, although, with more getting their first choice there should not be too many complaints.

The classic case is the Judd in Tonbridge, which increased its intake to 155 last year, but has fallen back to 125 for 2014 entry.

As a result, many boys who did not

expect a place at Judd found themselves with one in March or through reallocation in April.

Others were cross because they didn't apply, fearing the required score would be too high (this depends on the number of boys applying and their aggregate scores in the Kent Test, so is not known until March).

There are several clues about the school's intention and I believe they will once again admit the higher number of 155 boys, but it may be that the school has itself not yet decided.

However, whilst government policy allows popular schools to expand, there is a mirror consequence that those at the bottom of the pile are likely to spiral into further decline in numbers.

I anticipate that there will be closures within a couple of years.

Kent has already seen one effective closure this year, with Castle Community College in Deal swallowing up Walmer Technology College because of falling numbers of applicants to the two schools.

Two other schools have already cut their numbers; Chaucer Technology College in Canterbury reducing its admission from 235 to 150 in the last few years, and Pent Valley in Folkestone has dropped from 240 to 180.

Over the border in Medway, which has now reached the bottom of a sharp drop in numbers, there is little change.

The one school which increased its intake last year was Rainham Mark Grammar, taking in an additional 30 children, but this is likely to be a one off, releasing another class of children this year to the other grammars, three of which had vacancies for 2013 entry.

Whilst it may be difficult to predict precise outcomes in terms of school places offered in Kent for the coming year, there is no doubt that once again the school landscape will look very different with new winners and losers.

We mustn't forget that in the middle of all this are the children.

■ See www.kentadvice.co.uk for the full list of changes to school places.

KENT TEST RESULTS PROMPT SCRAMBLE FOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL BERTH

Uncertainty over school places reigns again as families of children due to start secondary education next year race to secure a spot at their first choice school, *writes Marijke Cox.*

It follows the release of results of the Kent Test this week.

Some 45 per cent of pupils who sat the exam – which assesses whether a child is suitable for selective education – passed.

In total, 12,064 pupils in Year 6 sat the

exam last month, with 5,494 securing the grade to qualify for a grammar place.

Some 27 per cent of that figure – 1,488 – are children from outside of the county.

Now parents have the sometimes stressful task of securing a sought-after spot at a grammar school, of which there are 4,570 places available for the 5,494 children assessed suitable.

The deadline for secondary school

applications is October 31, however, due to the October school holiday, applications received before 5pm on November 5 will be considered by KCC to be on time.

Parents can name up to four preferred schools.

KCC cabinet member for education Roger Gough said: "I do appreciate this can be a stressful time for families.

"If you are still undecided which school to

choose, I would suggest visiting your local secondary schools and to also speak with the headteacher at your child's primary school.

"Finding the right secondary school is a really big decision for every child and family and we want to provide as much help as we can and make the process as straightforward as possible."

See www.kent.gov.uk for further help and information about the process.

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REVVING UP: Can Manston Airport ever deliver on its much touted potential?

Mystery over the future as buyer pays £1 for Manston

The troubled airport has had more false dawns than the British economy, but with a new, ambitious, owner could things take off? **Chris Britcher** reports.

FOR what is so often described as the catalyst for the rejuvenation of the east of the county, news this week that Manston Airport had sold for the grand total of £1 will have done little to boost confidence.

Yet the businesswoman whose hands into which it now falls will give plenty of room for optimism.

Multi-millionaire Ann Gloag has established herself as one of the nation's leading business figures, picking up a string of awards, a sometimes ruthless reputation, and – more recently – a philanthropic nature which has seen her invest millions into saving lives in Africa.

But she is best known as co-founder of the Stagecoach transport empire – which she built up with her brother, Sir Brian Souter – turning it from a tiny operation in Scotland into a global powerhouse.

Sir Brian, 59, remains its chairman and last year saw total revenues of £2.8 billion deliver a profit of close to £219 million. His personal fortune is estimated to be a cool £400m.

With a global workforce of 36,000 – stretching across the UK and the US – they are the sort of figures Mrs Gloag is used to dealing with.

She served as executive director of Stagecoach – which runs buses across the county – until 2000 and remains a non-executive director.

Now, however, she has branched out on her own after penning a deal which sees her catapulted back into the transport market.

Assuming the paperwork goes without a hitch, she is to become the new owner of Man-

ston Airport after agreeing a deal with New Zealand-based energy and transport company Infratil.

Although the price of the company was set at just £1, the total cost of completing the deal is expected to be some £350,000 which factors in "an adjustment for working capital variances and cash injected by Infratil between October 14, 2013, and transaction completion". In short, paying back what the existing owners put in between now and then.

All is in stark contrast, however, to the £17m Infratil shelled out in August 2005 to buy the Thanet airfield.

But then Manston's efforts to establish itself as a major player in the county have been as up and down as a jet caught in severe turbulence.

Undoubtedly, the former RAF base has enormous potential. But it continues to come up against the same problems – it's a long way from London and the transport links remain poor in comparison to the likes of more established, passenger-focused airports.

The wreckage of attempts by the likes of EUjet and Flybe to establish profitable services also loom large.

There's local opposition to night flights – which blocks expansion of passenger flights – and the big players have little motivation to shift from existing regional airports to Kent.

Even with the recent demand for more aviation capacity to be made available in the south



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KENT LIFE
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INTERNATIONAL: KLM's launch was all smiles, but it remains tight-lipped over passenger numbers

« PAGE 36

east, Manston struggles to present a loud enough case to be heard.

It may have recently secured a deal with Dutch airline KLM to operate daily flights to Amsterdam's international hub airport Schiphol, but trying to get figures to paint a picture of how popular the service has been is like getting blood out of a stone.

And for the time being, at least, it would seem information as to Manston's immediate future is going to be a little light on the ground too.

Mrs Gloag is notoriously media shy, preferring, generally, to keep a low profile. So what do we know so far?

She is operating under a wholly owned company called Lothian Shelf (710). She and a Pauline Bradley are listed as directors.

It is what is known as a shelf company. In a nutshell, it is a company created for no reason and then put "on the shelf" until a person or group wish to start a firm without having to go through all the procedures of creating a new one.

In short, it allows fast access to a company which can then move swiftly in the marketplace, and is a common business practice.

Ms Gloag purchased the empty company at the end of September.

According to a spokeswoman for her, the businesswoman is unlikely to make any public statement until the sale is completed – this is expected to be by November 29. At that point, it is hoped, we will get a clearer idea of what she has in store.

So far the only public comments are those uttered in a statement announcing the sale.

She was quoted as saying: "I am delighted to have purchased Manston Airport from Infratil as I believe there is real potential for growth that has not been fully captured.

"Having worked in the transport industry for more than 30 years, I be-

ANN GLOAG: THE TRIUMPHS AND TRAGEDIES OF MANSTON'S REMARKABLE OWNER

Ann Gloag has a quite remarkable life story.

Born Ann Souter in Perth, Scotland, in December 1942, she left school and trained as a nurse – a career which she pursued for 20 years, working as a burns unit sister.

In 1980 she teamed up with her brother, Brian Souter, and her husband Robin Gloag, to buy a bus; using money from her father's redundancy.

Her husband became driver and maintenance man for the fledgling company, which operated a service from Dundee to London. However, when their marriage broke down, he sold his share in the firm.

He then set up Highwayman Travel – only for Stagecoach to launch rival services on the same route, but promising faster journey times.

The two engaged in a price war on the 15-minute route between Perth and Errol which eventually saw Stagecoach drop its charge altogether. It forced Highwayman out of business, which it then swallowed, leaving her ex with a residual coach hire company.

This was an early sign of a



ruthless nature which would see her become rich and powerful beyond her dreams.

When Stagecoach eventually floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1993 it was valued at £134m and catapulted Mrs Gloag into multi-millionaire status.

Today, it serves some three million customers a day, has a multi-billion pound turnover and generates annual profits in the hundreds of millions.

While not courting publicity, her efforts made her one of Scotland's

most successful business figures and she won a clutch of awards, including Businesswoman of the Year and European Women in Achievement.

She may now be 70, but she remains in constant demand and her desire to generate success is still apparent.

Today, she owns two Scottish castles – Beaufort Castle, near Inverness, and Kinfauns Castle, near Perth. She left locals fuming, however, when she won a legal case to block public access to woodland in the grounds of Kinfauns.

Her life has not been without tragedy however. Her son, Jonathan, was found dead in woodland in Perthshire in 1999. He was just 28 and it is understood he took his own life. At the time of his death he was married to the daughter of Mrs Gloag's second husband, David McCleary.

Just eight years later, Robin Gloag was killed on a road in Perth after being involved in a car accident. No other vehicle was involved. In honour of her late son she runs a charitable school in Nairobi, Kenya, called the Jonathan Gloag Academy.

She has also invested a fair percentage of her wealth into the health and education of women and children in Africa, in addition to supporting many UK charities.

Formerly a trustee of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers and board member of Marie Curie Cancer Care, she has won a Great Scot Award for her work with Mercy Ships, an international hospital ship charity.

In 2009, she was admitted into the Order of the Star of Africa with the grade of Commander, in recognition of her support for the people and the country of Liberia.

She also received the inaugural Susan B Anthony Humanitarian Award from the National Council of Women of the United States at the United Nations in 2010 and the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kil Medal in 2011.

In March 2013, she was named Global Woman of the Year by the St Andrews Society of the State of New York at a gala dinner raising funds for Children's Health at New York Presbyterian Hospital and Yorkhill Children's Charity that supports the work of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow.

lieve I am very well placed to help maximise opportunities for both freight and passengers at Manston."

They are all the sort of comments which echo around Manston.

Chief executive Charles Buchanan was keeping a low profile too. It had been anticipated he would be sold with the airport and continue to oversee its business, but until the deal is completed, he is unlikely to be certain of what his future is.

Marko Bogoevski, chief executive of Infratil, added: "From our perspective, while Manston was a very small part of the company's overall asset base, this sale will result in a more focused portfolio and improve our future cash flow position."

Earlier this month, it also saw major movement in its hopes to sell Prestwick Airport in Glasgow. Infratil put both airports on the market in March 2012. It said at the time the

decision was to allow it to refocus.

Prestwick, like Manston, had been recording heavy losses year-on-year. With no obvious buyer, the Scottish government made the surprise announcement it intended to buy it, effectively nationalising it.

Both Thanet District Council and North Thanet MP Roger Gale welcomed news of the takeover and said it painted a confident vision of the future for the airport.

For now, however, there is at least the very real likelihood Manston will come out of the limbo it has been in since Infratil put it on the market, and look forward to a fresh approach.

Whether that will be enough to make it a genuine cog in east Kent's revival, rather than simply spoken about in terms of 'potential', remains to be seen.

Share your views on the issue by emailing editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

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Why wet wipes are fresh threat to our beaches

With sewers struggling to cope under a new deluge one beach is paying a high price, as **Joe Bill** reports

MORE associated with dinosaur fossils, clear waters and the beautiful views, one seaside town's popular stretch of beach is under threat from a by-product of modern day living.

Thousands of wet wipes, sanitary towels and nappies have found their way onto the beach at the Warren in Folkestone, in what is quickly becoming a major problem for the county's sewage system.

Unable to break down in the pipes beneath our homes and streets, the detritus is becoming the number one cause of blockages.

In fact, it is estimated that, nationwide, more than £15 million is spent unblocking wet wipes from drains across the UK every year.

The most recent blockage locally forced overflow pipes to eject the material into the sea at Folkestone's Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Just this week, both the Environment Agency (EA) and a clean-up team from Southern Water have scaled the beach and the shallow waters at the Warren picking up flushed items to avoid further damage to the shoreline.

Clean-up volunteer Steve Brooks highlighted the incident at the Warren to the EA.

He said: "As a regular dog walker and father of a young son, I was appalled when I saw the extent of the sewage overflow spill; the sea was awash with thousands of wipes, they were strewn along the beach and tangled up in sea weed and rocks. It was worse than anything I have seen when travelling in third world countries.

"It seems the system cannot deal with the vast amount of wipes being flushed down loos."

The discharge of the sewers into the sea tends to occur during times of heavy rainfall as sewers struggle to cope with the sudden deluge and blockages in pipes.

Such a situation occurred last weekend when the heavens opened.

Senior environment officer at the EA, Duncan McClintock, says it is Southern Water's responsibility to clean up the mess but is adamant that it is the public who need to stop flushing non-biodegradable objects if they are to avoid this occurring elsewhere in the county.

He explained: "It can have localised effects on water quality and for the community. It becomes a serious problem because it is quite a visual pollution and people don't want to visit the beach anymore.

"There is a point where sewers become unable to hold the capacity that's in them because of blockages – the majority of the time this coincides with high levels of rain fall.

"High volumes of water enter the sewage networks and it becomes inundated, so to stop people's homes and businesses backing-up and becoming flooded with sewage the overflow discharge goes into the sea."

The EA, in conjunction with Southern Water, is conducting a formal investigation into why there was so much material found on the beach, but the wet wipe problem is one that Southern Water say they have targeted many times in the past.

A spokesman for the water company has said that a clean-up operation will continue until all debris is cleared from the 250-metre

stretch of beach.

They told KoS: "A team has been out every day this week, between the tides, monitoring what is coming in. Items cleaned-up include nappies, wet wipes and sanitary products. Most appear to have now been collected but our team will remain on site for a while longer.

"We would ask everyone to be careful about what they flush. Our sewer system is designed to deal with the three Ps – pee, poo and paper. If you flush other items such, as wet wipes, this can lead to blockages in the pipes and can cause sewer flooding in streets, gardens and homes.

"If the items get through to a pumping station or treatment works they can block the pumps, pipes and filter screens and, during heavy rain, may escape from overflow pipes directly into the river or sea."

The cost of clean-ups, like the one at Folkestone, are covered by the bills paid by the public and Kent is fast becoming a notorious area for wet-wipe blockages.

During the past 12 months, more than 300 sewer blockages in the Ashford area alone were caused by things that shouldn't be flushed.

And that's not all. The county is also contributing to the problem by pouring cooking oils down the drain which then solidify. Public debris is now the cause of three quarters of all sewer blockages in Kent.

Kent County Council member for Hythe is the Green Party's Martin Whybrow. He is worried this pollution could affect the reputation of the area with tourists and believes the dangers should be made very clear to the public.

He explained: "I would be worried during any season. Clearly the beaches have a lot of use all year round, and I always find it slightly galling that they get cleaned regularly in the summer seasons but that stops when the visitors leave.

"It does seem to be something that crops up around our coastline too regularly.

"On the one hand there shouldn't be this pollution into the sea whatever happens and highlighting the potential pollution from these types of items is something that should be repeatedly communicated to people."

Southern Water has previously created a campaign in which a group of youngsters used knotted wet wipes to pull a small aircraft along a runway to demonstrate the durability of the materials in an effort to highlight the dangers.

But volunteer cleaner Steve Brooks believes there is still more that should be done to stop this beach discharge from happening again.

He added: "The message needs to be put out there by any means possible. Perhaps it should also be highlighted in schools to teach kids what happens to stuff which goes down the loo or they could end up seeing it all again at the beach."

The Folkestone spill has come just months after Southern Water was fined £200,000 for discharging untreated sewage into the sea off the coast of Thanet.

Southern Water pleaded guilty to breaching its environmental permit at the Foreness Point pumping station in August 2013.



BLOCKED: A Southern Water project manager shows how wet wipes fail to break down as they go through the sewer system; some of the wipes cleared from Folkestone Warren by volunteers

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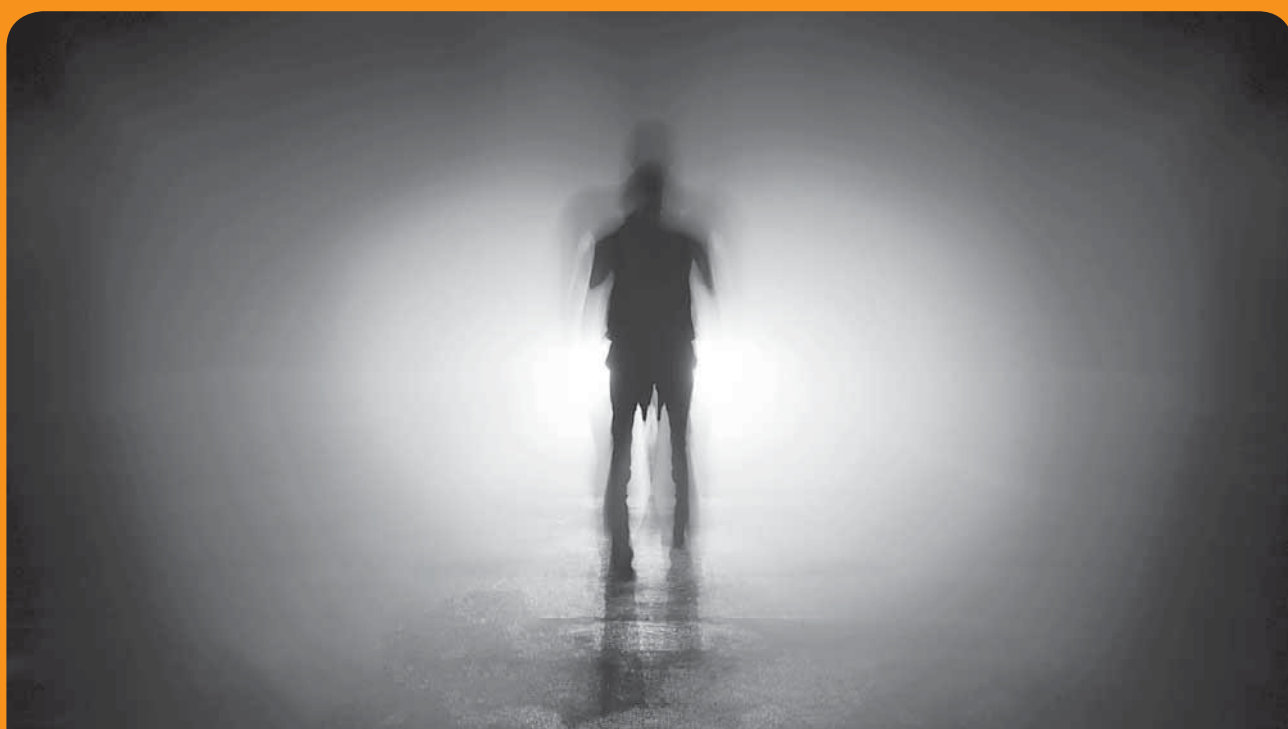


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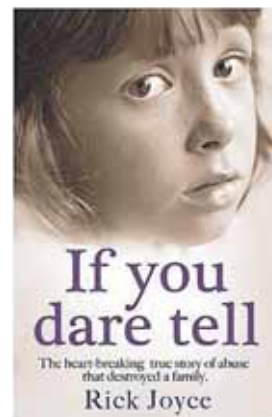


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The darkest tale but writer shows light can endure



Rick Joyce fought mental illness, suffered horrific loss and planned to murder the man who had raped his mother, but he refused to go under. By **Greg Miles**

PLOTTING the death of his step-grandfather seemed a completely reasonable thing to do for Rick Joyce.

With the gun in his hand, he had one thing on his mind without a thought for the consequences of killing the man who had sexually abused his mother as a child.

Years of pent-up frustration had led him to that point – until it was stopped by him phoning his psychiatrist. It did not stop him trying a second time, though.

Years later and with a book about his experiences under his belt, Rick [not his real name] is hoping to help others overcome mental-health problems and the issues of sexual abuse and bullying that tore his family apart.

His book *If I Dare Tell* plots his extraordinary life-story and his battles with bipolar disorder, suicide, alcohol and the constant torment of the knowledge of how his grandfather had exploited his mother as a child.

"A lot of stuff gets swept under the carpet and people don't like to talk about their mental conditions – they don't like to talk about suicide and child abuse," said Rick, who lives in Chatham. "But people should talk about it more."

"One thing I've learnt is you never know what somebody is going through. If I was ill, people didn't know what was going on in my head."

"I had some terrible experiences where friends are feeling fine and trying to have a laugh, but because you can't laugh they think you're a miserable git. People need to be more considerate and thoughtful."

"Two years ago my partner found her brother hanging in an apartment. She's just buried her father and her other brother died of cancer. She's in a dreadful place, but to look at she's happy-go-lucky."

Growing up in Southend, Rick came out of school without any qualifications and worked in the building trade, specialising in site management, which brought about his first foray into writing.

"Site management was extremely stressful," he said.

"This was in the days when health and safety wasn't what it should have been. I was ordered to get out of it by the psychiatrist."

"I started my own company, borrowed some money on my house and started a health-and-safety consultancy, writing a

“I had some terrible experiences where friends are feeling fine and trying to have a laugh, but because you can't laugh they think you're a miserable git”

course on site management.

"That's really where it began."

"There were a lot of programmes on TV at the time about cowboy builders. I decided to write a book for people to avoid the pitfalls."

"I couldn't get a publisher so decided to publish it myself."

"I spent about £3,500 and then sent it to mainstream publishers and got two deals."

"If *You Dare Tell* seemed a good place to try my hand at a different genre. It wasn't commercially driven because I needed to get things out of my head, but I knew eventually I would have to think about it commercially in the long term."

"A certain amount of it has been written creatively because of that."

"It helped me get rid of the nasty stuff that happened and I thought 'Let's put a spin on this and turn it into a positive'. My psychiatrist told me to write it all down."

"If you've got hang-ups about things, write it all down. It's amazing how therapeutic it can be."

"If you had said to me 10 years ago I would be a published author I would have laughed."

"Some of my family members weren't overly keen. I employed the services of a ghost writer who

Continued on page 43 »

» Features team

Editor: Dave Mairs

dave.mairs@archant.co.uk
Tel: 01303 817022

Reporter: Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk
Tel: 01303 817048



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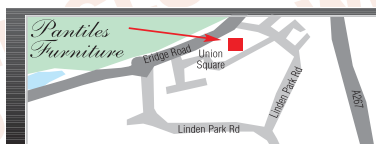
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« Continued from page 41

came well recommended. She lived in Bristol and also came from a nursing background, so she had a good understanding of things.

"It was a hard process. I used to go down and see her and stay in a hotel. Within a matter of minutes I would break down and stop talking.

"This was in 2005 and I spent about £1,000 with her. I spent more time crying than talking, then thought I'm going to take this on my own. Between January last year and until recently there have been buckets of tears writing it. There have been so many memories and emotions, but I feel so much better for it."

Rick's spiral of depression started in the early 90s after the death of his mother and father within a short space of time.

As a child she had been put up for adoption by her teenage mother and placed with a loving couple.

But her adoptive father died in the Second World War and her mother remarried a controlling and abusive man who beat and raped her.

Rick was to hear that story when 21 and set about making his step-grandfather's life a misery thereafter.

His mother died as a result of her medication five days short of her 50th birthday and shortly afterwards his father committed suicide when he was working in the Middle East.

"My mum created a dual personality to cope with what she was going through as a child."

"She wasn't allowed to celebrate birthdays or Christmas and had a horrendous upbringing, including sexual abuse. My father killed

himself 18 months after her death.

"In 1992, I went to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates on dole money to look for a job. I had heard there was a lot of construction work going on out there. Within three days I was offered three jobs.

"That was in the October. Then my dad started to get really depressed.

"Me and my dad were best friends and he was having a tough time after losing Mum.

"I came back [to Britain] for two weeks at Christmas and he convinced me he was fine and said he would come out for a holiday – but he didn't."

Shortly after, he took his own life – then Rick began drinking.

“ She wasn't allowed to celebrate birthdays or Christmas and had a horrendous upbringing including sexual abuse ”

"When I was at my darkest days of depression I was drinking heavily, very heavily," said the 53-year-old.

"It was pretty obvious I was going to end up dead if I didn't tackle it some way or another.

"After a year of giving up alcohol I had lost three stone and was firing on all cylinders. I was focused.

"What had happened was the alcoholism and depression had masked bipolar."

It was in 2001 that Rick went to Alcoholics Anonymous for help... and a year later plotted the murder of his step-grandfather.

"I got the gun off a friend. I hadn't

thought about the consequences for myself, but I did think about my children," he said.

"Having lost both my parents, I thought 'I don't care what happens to me, but I love my children dearly'.

"I decided to call my case nurse. I said I was going to kill a couple of people. She came around with a psychiatrist and I explained it to them. He said he should section me but thought I seemed OK. I didn't tell them I had a gun but said I would shoot someone.

"Over a period of probably six to eight weeks, maybe longer, they tested me on various drugs and realised I had bipolar. Because my mother had been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, they thought there was a genetic link. They put me on medication, which put me on a sensible level."

He was to see his step-grandfather a little while later, though, and it was the last time he saw him alive.

Enraged after reading his mother's medical records that detailed her treatment, which he had obtained by a change in the law, he snapped and again plotted the abuser's death.

Although he never admitted any crimes, it was clear to Rick what had happened.

"I persecuted him for about 16 years for what he had done," he said.

"Although I was ordered to keep away by a court order, I did manage to bump into him on one occasion.

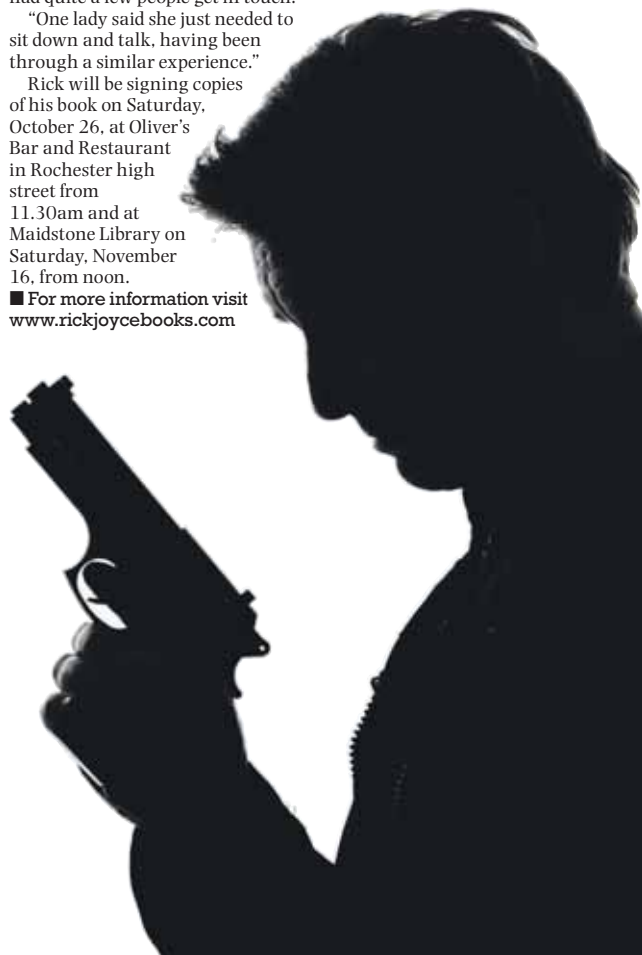
"I went around to kill him for the second time after I had obtained my mother's medical records in 2005 – it included everything she'd been through. I went to his house only to find out he had already died around the time I'd seen him previously.

"Since this book has come out I've had quite a few people get in touch.

"One lady said she just needed to sit down and talk, having been through a similar experience."

Rick will be signing copies of his book on Saturday, October 26, at Oliver's Bar and Restaurant in Rochester high street from 11.30am and at Maidstone Library on Saturday, November 16, from noon.

■ For more information visit www.rickjoycebooks.com



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Lady of the stage, woman of the people

One of our finest actresses is heading for Kent with Alan Bennett's new play, writes **David Mairs**

SHE'S kind of the dame who's not a dame.

The acting career of Siân Phillips stands alongside any of this country's finest and you could make a strong case for her being the finest actress never to have received the greatest honour that the system can bestow upon a woman of the realm.

The roles on stage, television and film, the venues, the companies, the nominations, the awards... all tangle together almost into a compendium of the acting world.

BAFTA best-actress awards for her portrayal of Livia in *I, Claudius* and of Beth Morgan in *How Green Was My Valley* are probably the best known among a wider public, although Marlene, a tribute to Marlene Dietrich, was one of her defining West End and Broadway roles.

Phillips turned 80 this year and her love of her profession is greater than it's ever been – certainly, her age is no bar to touring and this month she comes to The Marlowe in Canterbury with the National Theatre production of Alan Bennett's *People*.

"I play Lady Dorothy," she said. "She lives in a masterpiece of a house which is falling down. She's penniless, cold and hungry with just a single-bar fire for warmth and lives



LEADING LIGHT: Siân Phillips as Lady Dorothy Stacpoole in *People*

with her companion. Her sister wants to sell the house to the National Trust, but Dorothy puts up a spirited fight against it.

"I won't say anything more as some-

thing quite extraordinary happens."

It has, nevertheless, been well versed that the plot entails the shooting of a porn film and also that the National Trust gets a bit of a kicking to the extent that it was prompted into responding to the manner in which it had been portrayed.

Always contentious, that Alan Bennett, and this is the first piece of his on which Phillips has worked. Her admiration is clear and genuine.

"It's such a thrill to stand on stage and speak some of the things he writes," she said.

Her native lilt is just about in there – she was born in West Glamorgan and grew up speaking Welsh – but her voice is unarguably cultured. Does this make Lady Dorothy an ideal role? "Yes, because she's a peeress."

It's wrong to define anyone by those they have loved or wed (or maybe even both at the same time), but Phillips is rarely written about without mention of her 20-year marriage to actor Peter O'Toole – and in fairness she does devote much of the second volume of her autobiography, *Public Places*, to it.

"That was the long one, that was the real one," she said.

A personal life matched in colour by the performing life, which included the winning of the National Ei-

steddfod at the age of 11, walking out on her first husband to join RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art) in 1955 and acting with the BBC Repertory Company, Royal Shakespeare Company and, of course, the National Theatre Company.

She says she loves the National Theatre: "I have worked with it off and on. I've been in the commercial world an awful lot, in the West End and on Broadway, and it's the best atmosphere I've come across."

The success of the Marlowe Theatre's £25.6 million refurbishment has been well charted, but provincial theatre will always be provincial theatre, so how does Phillips find the health of stage away from London and the big cities?

"I think it is strong. I was with a company called Frantic Assembly. It's very physical, avant-garde theatre – very cutting-edge. I wasn't sure how it would do, but I was astonished at the support it received. It played to full houses everywhere – we didn't need to advertise. People who loved theatre came out. I was impressed."

There is no desire to recline into her final years doing little more than reflect on what must have been a brilliantly exciting life. Indeed nothing could be further from the truth.

"I was just talking to another ac-

tress and we're busier than ever before, more hectic," she said.

The "middle section" of her life is the part about which she speaks least fondly: "My life began when I stopped being married – being married was very, very different."

But she reminds you she wouldn't be where she is now without it. And where she is now is a good place.

"The last five years have been like that," she said. "I've enjoyed it more than ever. It's because I've been given such wonderful things to do."

Her enthusiasm and friendliness aside, after speaking to her and learning about all that she had achieved on stage – and is still achieving – I felt that I should really have been talking to Dame Siân Phillips.

Despite such oversight, there has been recognition with, in 2000, a CBE: "I couldn't think why – there are so many wonderful actors."

Charming and modest to the last, but never a pushover. The National Trust has been warned.

■ People is at The Marlowe from Tuesday to Saturday, October 22-26, at 7.30pm, with Thursday and Saturday matinees at 2.30pm. Tickets, priced £15-£33, are on 01227 787787 or at marlowetheatre.com. There will be audio-described, signed and captioned performances.

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Orchard programmed for big things

He's been in the job for less than a year, but Chris Glover, theatre director at The Orchard, has plans to revolutionise the venue's future, reports **Greg Miles**

GIVEN its proximity to London, you could be forgiven for thinking The Orchard Theatre in Dartford might struggle to attract the bigger touring shows.

However, that is not the case for a venue that celebrates its 30th anniversary this year as it continues to see audience figures rise.

It also harbours hopes of casting its net wider to act as a springboard and warm-up venue for big acts and shows heading for the country's arenas and stadiums.

The ambition is being driven by theatre director Chris Glover, who joined in December last year, having previously worked at Bromley's Churchill Theatre for nine years.

"The Orchard is very similar to Bromley with its productions. I had been here to see the panto before as you always want to keep an eye on the opposition," he said.

"It has a bigger capacity, so I could see the potential here. That's why I came here – because the role deals

with programming and that's an area I hadn't been involved in and wanted to have a go at.

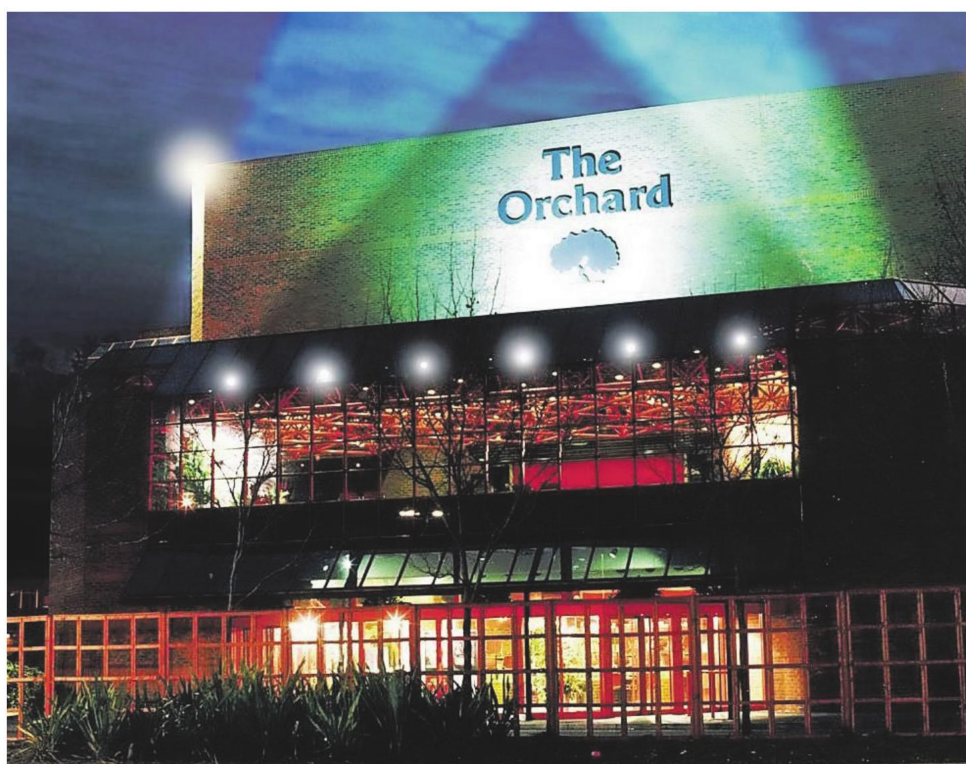
"When I first came, we did some focus groups, completely impartial, and the message was they wanted more plays here in season."

That line of thinking led the theatre to join the Touring Consortium, set up in the mid-1980s to promote large-scale touring dramas, which it was felt there was a lack of at the time.

Since then, the consortium has grown to include 10 theatres around the country, which next year will start a three-year cycle of hosting three shows thanks to Arts Council funding.

It also involves the theatre linking up with local schools to help out on productions. That is a vital part of the theatre's future in a digital age in which many youngsters are no longer interested in traditional forms of entertainment.

"The audience has been going up



Continued on page 46 » **BRIGHT LIGHTS:** Celebrating 30 years this year, The Orchard's popularity continues to see audience numbers rise

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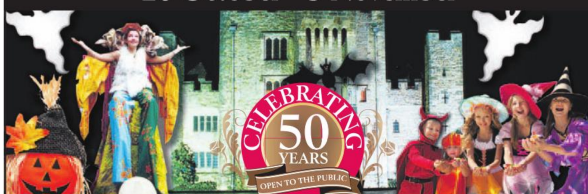
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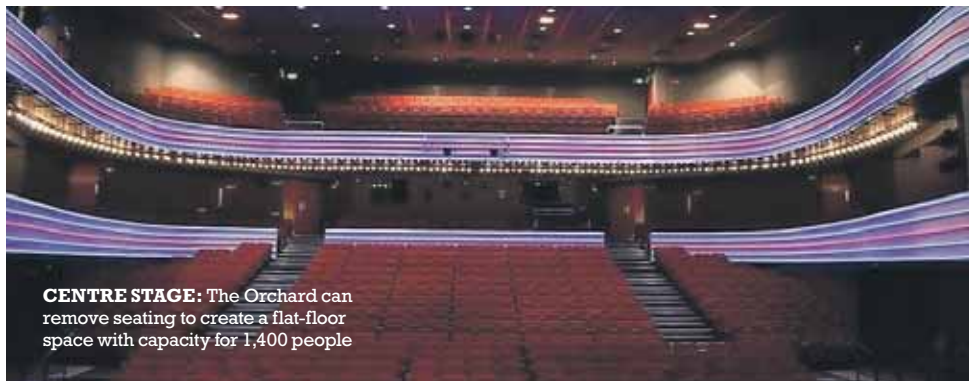
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CENTRE STAGE: The Orchard can remove seating to create a flat-floor space with capacity for 1,400 people

« Continued from page 45

every year for the last four years,” said Glover.

“I just felt to push it even further we needed to bring it to the next level – we needed to bring in some bigger shows.

“That’s where we’ve been going with programming and it seems to be paying off, really. The season I programmed kicked off earlier this year with Priscilla Queen of the Desert, one of the biggest shows to ever come here, so it was a good start.”

Dartford’s closeness to London in fact brings plenty of benefits to the theatre.

Glover said: “It’s perfect, really. We are trying to start shows here, for instance in January we started *Save The Last Dance* by Bill Kenwright.

“We’re a short distance from London, but it’s not London. We’re in the perfect position. Actors like it a lot because they can commute from home.

“It’s a different experience for customers – rather than having to get a train to London, they can drive in and park for free and eat in our restaurant.

“In January we’ve got the world premiere of *A Perfect Murder*, prior to it going on national tour.

“I just want our customers to feel

“It would be great to be a warm-up venue for some of the bigger bands – that’s what I’m looking at, at the moment”

proud they can see things here before it goes to the West End.”

When the theatre was opened in April 1983, it was equipped with advanced technology that allowed its seating to fold away, creating a flat-floor space capable of holding 1,400 people.

That is the capacity Glover is hoping can tempt big-name pop groups to use the venue in the future.

Orchard audiences are averaging two-thirds of the 956 capacity.

“I know that in terms of our capacity we are just above the national average,” he said.

“I think we can thrive in these economic conditions because people want escapism. I’m sure people have to be choosy about what shows they want to see, though.

“The flat flooring is the next area I want to explore. I want to start looking at that when we get week-long shows. The raised seating disappears under the circle and suddenly you’ve got this flat floor. It’s very clever and all hydraulic.

“It would be great to be a warm-up venue for some of the bigger bands, because it’s close to London. That’s what I’m looking at, at the moment.

“It [The Orchard] was ahead of its time and it was built like that as a multi-purpose venue.”

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Next Step Fostering was established 25 years ago by Maureen and Alb Ward – who were foster carers themselves – and therefore had personal experience of caring for vulnerable children. Next Step Fostering remains a family company to this day, with Registered Manager Neil McCarthy, and Director Lesley Ward's involvement with the company stretching back over twenty years.

Next Step Fostering has gained an outstanding reputation for providing high quality child care. In the last three consecutive OFSTED inspections, Next Step achieved an 'Outstanding' rating across every standard in which they were assessed – probably the only independent fostering agency to achieve this.

Next Step provides a range of fostering services through offices in Kent, London, Thames Valley and work in partnership with many Local Authorities across the South East of England.



A national shortage of foster carers means that children who cannot live with their family are being moved away from their home communities, resulting in a change of school, community, friends and religious contacts. Every day, Next Step receives child referrals from Local Authorities, but due to the high levels of demand, do not have sufficient families to meet the needs of the many children being referred.

As a family run company, Next Step Fostering is able to offer a personal, individual service to its foster carers and children. Supervision, support and training can be tailored to individual needs and foster carers have an open invitation to approach Lesley Ward directly to discuss any issues they may have.

Fostering a child is not an easy task, but it is extremely rewarding – and thanks to the generous allowance Next Step Fostering pays, many people give up unfulfilling jobs to undertake a career in fostering, where they feel they can really make a difference to young lives.

Neil McCarthy, Registered Manager, said "People often worry that they won't be suitable, based on things they have heard from friends or the media, but I would encourage anyone thinking about fostering to speak to us directly.

We can answer all of their questions about the type of people we are looking for and what fostering is like."

If you are considering a career in fostering or simply want to learn more, Next Step Fostering hold regular 'drop-in' information sessions at its offices in Kent, Surrey, Essex and Buckinghamshire.

Details can be found by contacting 0845 603 8354, email info@nextstepfostering.org or visit their web site at www.nextstepfostering.org

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BONFIRE night and Guy Fawkes's demise in 1606 is particularly close to the Farriers Arms at Mersham – as it was built the same year.

Hence the name '1606' for the pub's popular own-brewed real ale.

This year's Farriers Fireworks Spectacular will be taking place on Saturday, November 9, from 5pm with a food and bar tent and children's entertainment until fireworks at 7pm and the bonfire at 7.30pm.

Why not try your hand at making a Guy for an opportunity to boost your organisation's funds? Three prizes of £100 each could be won for your

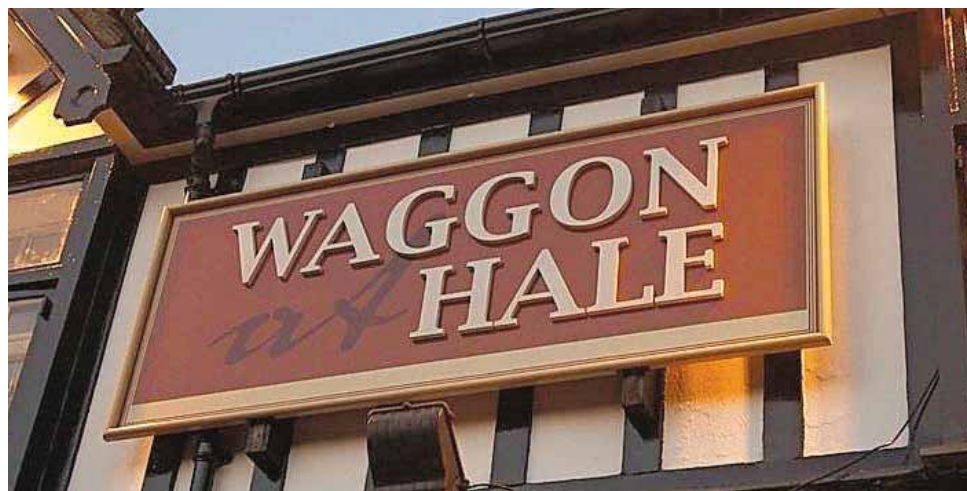
organisation or charity.

Bring your Best Guy throughout the day until 6.15pm, when the whole creative gathering will be judged by Webbo from AHBS radio.

A free family ticket (two adults, two children) will be yours when you bring your Guy along. Please label him with your name, phone number and the chosen organisation should your Guy be a winner.

Discounted pre-purchase tickets are available from the pub until closing time on Friday, November 8.

There are disabled facilities and wheelchair access. Parking is free.



Waggon promises you a gourmet evening to die for this Halloween

THE Waggon at Hale in Chatham is hosting a Halloween Gourmet Evening on Thursday, October 31.

Join us for a six-course gourmet meal with a Halloween twist, from witches' brew to goblins with pumpkin dip. All this for only £29.95 per person, each course served with

a glass of wine or a spooky punch.

Why not visit us on Friday, November 1, for our spooktacular Fright Night?

The night of terror starts from 6pm, with a bonfire and barbecue in the garden and a kids' trick-or-treat special hunt from 7pm.

We even have a face-painter and a DJ from 8.30pm, plus there's a free glass of spooky cocktail for those in fancy dress! Are you brave enough?

Phone 01634 400800 or visit www.waggonathale.com.

The Waggon at Hale is at 179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP.

FREE PARKING Under cover viewing

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Thurs 31st - Halloween Gourmet Evening

Join us for a 6 course gourmet meal with a Halloween twist.

Only £29.95 per person with each course served with a glass of wine or a spooky punch

Places must be booked with a £5 deposit.

November Fri 1st - "Fright Night"

Our night of terror starts from 6pm... With a bonfire & BBQ in the garden, kids trick & treat hunt from 7pm, a face painter, DJ from 8.30pm, free glass of spooky cocktail for those in fancy dress.

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Fangtastic fun to be had during half-term at wild animal parks

VISITORS to Port Lympe Wild Animal Park, near Hythe, can join in with some fangtastic fun this half-term, all included in the price of your admission.

Activities will include a Spooky Maze Trail – dare you follow the trail around the mysterious maze?

Collect your trail sheet from the gatehouse when you arrive and collect all the letters in the maze to spell out the spooky word and win a ghastly prize!

Or try your hand at the Terrifying Touch Tables – are you brave enough to touch the terrifying animal artefacts? Get to grips with real animal bones and teeth!

Other activities include Creepy Crafts, where you can get chillingly

creative with a range of activities to get your teeth into. Make spiders and spooky eyes to take home and scare your friends and family.

Enter our pumpkin-colouring competition to be in with the chance of winning a horrifying prize – available all day throughout half-term in the education centre.

You can also pick up your free Ranger's Log Book and follow the trail to find out about canine teeth and why some animals have large fangs when they don't eat meat.

Meanwhile, the animals will also be getting into the Halloween spirit with eerie themed enrichments – animal feeds with a Halloween twist.

Join our education team as they trick-or-treat the animals to some spooky-themed goodies.

Check the talk boards and information screens around the park for times of our enrichment activities, animal talks and feeds to make sure you don't miss a thing!

Visitors to Howletts Wild Animal Park, near Canterbury, can also join the horrifying half-term fun – again all included in your admission price.

Activities will include Ghost Stories – join us in the education centre for some spooky stories from our keepers and education team.

Howletts also has Terrifying Touch Tables, Creepy Crafts and Rangers' Log Books to be collected, along with eerie themed enrichments for the animals.

For more information, including opening times, prices and events, visit www.aspinallfoundation.org or phone 0844 842 4647.



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Creepy Crafts

All activities included in the price of your admission.

Half term: Sat 26th Oct - Sun 3rd Nov



For more information

Visit us at:
aspinallfoundation.org

Call us:
0844 842 4647



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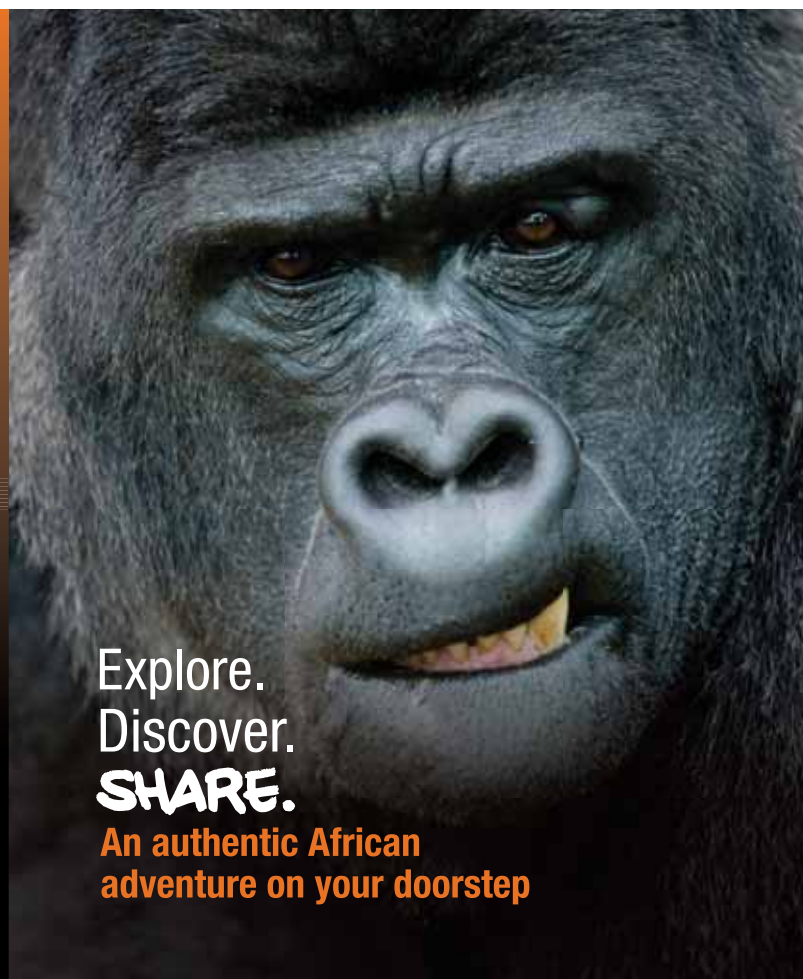


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**An authentic African
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Have the fright of your Kent Life this Halloween

KENT Life will be celebrating Halloween this October half-term with a super Spooktacular from Saturday to Friday, October 26-November 1, from 10am.

Brave the snakes, spiders and scorpions if you dare in Creepy Cuddle Corner – or take the plunge with slimy zorbing.

You can also test your artistic skills with daily pumpkin-carving, enter the ghoulish fancy-dress competitions, take a terrifying tractor ride or keep your eyes peeled for the friendly spectres on a wooden ghost hunt.

Kent Life at Maidstone is also a fun and safe place for kids to go trick-or-treating. So come and knock on the doors of our frightening farmhouses and historic homes to see who's lurking behind them!

Admission is £8.95 for adults, £7.95 concessions and £6.95 for children (aged three to 15). Under-threes and Kent Life members go free.

Kent Life is open daily from 10am to 6pm (last admission 5pm). Some activities are subject to a small additional charge.

Kent Life is the perfect all-weather attraction, with plenty to keep the family happy – including indoor and outdoor play areas, Paint-a-Pot studio, lots of farm animals and some great historic houses to explore.

For more details, visit www.kentlife.org.uk or phone 01622 763936.



SPOOKY GOINGS-ON: Fun for the whole family

Have you got what it takes to beat the clock and be a Cyclospooks champion?

KEVIN TYE, three times Masters World Champion, has launched Cyclopark's Halloween half-term Quickest Lap Challenge, completing a single lap of the park's 2.9-kilometre road circuit in three minutes and 37 seconds.

The individual time-trial event is open to everyone – no experience needed – forming part of the park's action-packed Halloween Half-Term Activity Programme.

Racing against the clock means winning depends on the individual rider's strength and endurance – not the help of other riders.

Kevin said: "The individual time-trial race is known as the race of truth. Your result is based on your performance against the clock."

"The circuit is a really smooth and open track with fast curves and an interesting slope to attack on the back straight. It should make for some fast times and exciting solo racing."

"Take the opportunity to see what you can do – don't make the most common mistake of not preparing, and make sure you warm up. Secondly, don't ride too hard too soon and tire early. Good luck and, most of all, enjoy it."

Riders can have up to three attempts to set

their fastest time. Competitors will compete against other riders within their age and gender category. There are great prizes to be won, free entry to the park and use of the facilities, plus personal coaching in your preferred cycling discipline.

Laurence Tricker, chief executive officer for Cyclopark, said: "Kevin set a challenging time. We want to encourage as many visitors as possible to take part. It's a race against yourself, testing what you can do."

"This is a great start to our Cyclospooks activity programme, which offers many sporting activities giving children the opportunity to try something new."

"Plus, we have a few spooky extras."

"Although the weather has cooled, cycling is a sport that can be enjoyed all year round. When the roads become slippery, Cyclopark becomes a safe environment to continue your training and enjoyment."

"Don't be put off by the weather – our half-term activities will keep the whole family entertained."

Cyclospooks starts on Saturday, October 16, and runs through to Sunday, November 3 – come if you dare. To find out more about the Halloween fun, visit www.cyclopark.com.

Celebrating 150 Years of Kent

Kent Life

Spook-tacular Half Term Fun!
26 October – 1 November from 10am

All your Kent Life favourites

- Brave our creepy cuddle corner
- Try slimy water zorbing
- Enjoy safe trick or treating
- Have a go at pumpkin carving
- Daily fancy dress competitions

General admission prices

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Adults | £8.95 |
| Children (aged 3-15) | £6.95 |
| Concessions | £7.95 |

Kent Life members come for FREE!

For more details and to book online visit www.kentlife.org.uk

Kent Life, Lock Lane, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3AU, Junction 6 of the M20. T: 01622 763936

Cyclopark's Cyclospooks 2013

SPOOKY, GHOSTLY & EERIE HALLOWEEN HALF TERM FUN
SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER – SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2013

Make sure you join in the fun – if you dare?

- The Spooky Treasure Hunt – A guaranteed prize for all survivors
- Mischiefous Monsters Workshop – Have fun making all things scary
- Ghostly Ghouls Face Painting – Get the scary look
- Fright Dress Competition – cash prizes to be won
- Halloween Little Monsters Strider Session
- BMX Beginners – Thing that go pump on the track
- BMX Intermediate – Keep your nerve on the bigger jumps
- Take up the scary Quickest Circuit Lap Challenge
- Go Ride Mountain Bike Sessions
- Go Ride Circuit Sessions
- Scout Madness – Team MGP (Terry Price, Archie Cole – UK Champion)
- Kent Youth Centre Fun Zone
- The Healing Zone – The ideal place to seek sanctuary and relaxation

For more information about the Cyclospooks Half Term Activity Programme visit www.cyclopark.co.uk

Where to find us:
The Tollgate, Wrotham Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 7NP
01474 567 145

Cyclopark is located close to the A2 to the south of Gravesend, Kent.
Take the A227 junction, (Gravesend Central) and follow the signs for Cyclopark.

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LOTTERY FUNDED | SPORT ENGLAND | Gravesham Borough Council

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Spectacular firework display to cap high-octane truck-racing at Brands

BRANDS Hatch is hosting a major fireworks display on Sunday, November 3, at the end of a family-themed event headlined by the final round of the 2013 British Truck Racing Championship.

Following a hugely successful event in 2012, the championship's second visit of the year to Brands Hatch will again coincide with the Guy Fawkes weekend celebrations.

A spectacular firework display will take place after dark on the Sunday, following a day of entertainment for all of the family. Children aged 12 and under will enjoy free entry.

Throughout the day there will be fun attractions around the circuit, including the return of the Red Dragon Monster Truck offering passenger rides, which proved to be highly popular at June's American Speedfest event at the circuit.

There will be a covered circus tent where children will have a chance to participate in an array of activities as well as a chance to see fire-jugglers,

stilt-walkers and unicyclists performing throughout the day.

The Brands Hatch funfair and children's adventure playground will be open, while there will be a display of up to 100 show trucks that will parade around the track during the fireworks display.

On track, the British Truck Racing Championship season finale is likely to see two champions crowned on the Indy circuit. In Division 1, Matt Summerfield and David Jenkins will be resuming their rivalry, while local driver Dave Smith aims to repeat his overall wins from April as he fights to retain his Division 2 crown.

In addition there will be a series of support races provided by the Pickup Trucks and Legends series.

Tickets for the truck-racing and firework event at Brands Hatch on Sunday, November 3, are available from £18, with free entry for children aged 12 and under.

For more information, phone 0843 453 9000 or visit www.brandshatch.co.uk.



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| GRANDSTAND SEATING | £10 |
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* Advance tickets available until midday Wed 30 October. Postage fee applies.

BRANDSHATCH.CO.UK
0843 453 9000

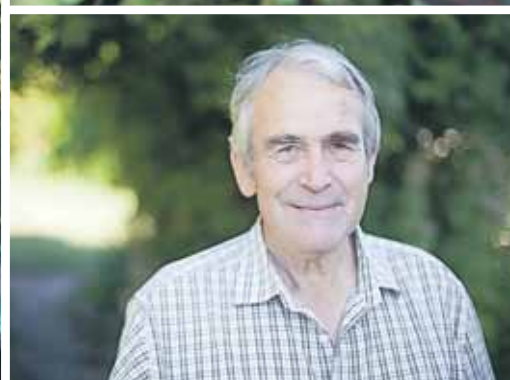
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BRANDS HATCH
SAT 2/SUN 3 NOV

Brands Hatch



From mangelwurzels to the joy of cobnuts

John Cannon owns a fruit farm at Plaxtol; here he talks about his life and inspirations in farming and particularly his diversification into cobnuts

TODAY we are a fruit farm concentrating on top and stone fruit, plus raspberries and cobnuts, but in my father's time we were a mixed farm.

Farming has been central to my life, all my life. My parents had moved to Australia and I was born over there. By the time I was seven I was helping with lambing – my father said that my small hands were ideal – and I also helped with the dairy herd.

We came back to this country when I was 14 – my mother had inherited a farm – and I went to Sevenoaks School. At that time the farm was mixed and we had a herd of Jersey and Guernsey cows, Romney sheep, some arable and hops and also some chickens.

I trained 'on the job', which wasn't too unusual in those days. I did all sorts of jobs to start.

One was cutting mangelwurzels, which at that time were an important crop for feeding cattle

and other livestock – you hardly hear of 'wurzels' these days.

One member of staff in particular – who went on to complete 60 years of living and working on the farm – taught me a huge amount.

In total we have about 250 acres, some of which is rented from nearby country estates. I help to look after the cobnut side of the business – that's about 30 acres planted with approximately 5,000 trees. The reminder of the land is down to fruit.

Cobnuts are monoecious and they bear separate male and female flowers on the same tree. Although they are mostly self-fertile, hazels are wind-pollinated and crop more reliably when grown in groups.

The biggest threat to the crop is attack by wildlife, mostly crows and grey squirrels, both of which enjoy cobnuts.

We begin harvesting towards the end of August, picking while the nuts are still green – in my opinion, young cobnuts are especially delicious, being juicy and sweet.

After harvesting and once all the leaves have fallen, we prune the trees and also have to control the vast numbers of suckers the trees produce. There are many different varieties of cobnut; we mostly grow Kent cobs, but we trial more than 60 varieties.

In 1990, in response to the fact that cobnuts weren't very well publicised, we started the Kent Cobnuts Association and now have 165 members. Most are in Kent, but we do have a few abroad.

Here at Roughway Farm we market mostly through Waitrose and Morrison's and the wholesale market, and we also supply local farm shops and farmers' markets. We are certified to Assured Produce and LEAF Marque standards.

My younger son, Giles, has taken over management of the fruit side of the farm. My elder son is an accountant and my daughter is an artist. I am delighted to say I have seven grandchildren, several of whom help on the farm during their holidays.



■ An extended version of this article can be enjoyed in **October's Kent Life**... out now in all good retail outlets. Or subscribe online @ subscriptionsave.co.uk or www.buyamag.co.uk/KE



THREE OF A KIND: From left, the Waggon at Hale, The Little Brown Jug at Chiddingstone Causeway and Margate's Bow's Kitchen have all been nominated as Family Dining Venue of the Year

Making dining a true family experience

IT is a situation we have all found ourselves in: going out for a meal but not being able to find a venue suitable for the whole family.

Restaurants can either be too upmarket to take youngsters or simply not cater for little ones' needs, while value for money can also be a problem as taking everyone out for dinner can be expensive.

However, there are a number of Kent venues bucking the trend when it comes to family dining.

And one of those is Bow's Kitchen.

The Thai restaurant, run by Tim and Val Smith in Margate's Old Town, opened just 18 months ago, but by keeping things simple it is attracting an audience.

Tim said: "We are a restaurant that

treats everyone the same. We make everyone feel welcome and take everything as professionally as possible while creating unpretentious food in a reasonable surrounding.

"Customers visit here knowing they can come with their children and families. You can have silver service with lots of cutlery and four different glasses, but we keep it simple.

"The building we're in is more than 100 years old – it's got amazing oak-panelling and a big stone fireplace.

"We didn't want to try and jazz it up with linen tablecloths – we just wanted to keep it simple."

Managing director of Whiting and Hammond, which runs The Little Brown Jug at Chiddingstone Causeway, near Tonbridge, is Brian



Keeley-Whiting, a former chef at The Savoy in London.

Understanding customers' needs and replicating what you enjoy are important factors to a successful venue, in his eyes.

"It's a very simple secret: if I enjoy it, I think 99 per cent of the people would enjoy it," he said.

"I often say that if you ordered a beef stew with dumplings and only got one dumpling, you would be disappointed, but if you had three you would be excited."

Since starting his chain of pubs in Kent and Sussex in 2003, he has seen considerable growth.

"Our sector has done really well – we are not at the bottom or the top end," he said.

"We always thought it would do well in tough times and we have had constant growth. The only difficulty has been the hit in profits with the price of everything going up. The biggest problem has been the 20 per cent VAT – people don't realise that 20 per cent of their meal is not theirs.

"We have been shocked by the growth in lunchtime eating. We actually do more business in the day now. It's become more acceptable to go out and have lunch nowadays. Eating out doesn't have to be for special occasions – it's become the norm."

The Waggon At Hale in Chatham takes an adaptable approach to its menu to help customers, while their animals, Crackling the pig, Kiev and Napoleon the chickens and the rabbits and guinea pigs also play their part in attracting families.

Owner Emma Pearson said: "I tell my staff to treat customers how they would like to be treated. Many come here because they like home-cooked food. We are adaptable as well – if children don't want chips they can have mash or a jacket potato."

Bow's Kitchen, The Little Brown Jug and Waggon At Hale are finalists in the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food and Drink Awards in the Family Dining Venue of the Year category.

The winner will be announced on Thursday, November 14.

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Basic mistake allows Belgian brilliance to fall into La Trap

La Trappiste

Location: Canterbury

Reviewed by **JOE BILL**

SET on the old cobbled streets just yards from the cathedral dressed with alfresco dining areas, La Trappiste could easily be at the heart of a Belgian city.

Instead, this bakery, bar and restaurant fuse resides in a Canterbury listed building with its large windows, tall pint glasses and open-plan kitchen. Pots of mussels ferried from bar to table add to the atmosphere – even the couple sitting

next to me were wearing chic scarves and speaking in French.

A scan of the Belgian Beer Bible rendered me speechless, but our knowledgeable waiter coaxed out my general tastes and delivered a perfect guest European lager to the table.

Each dish on the menu is footnoted with a recommendation of which beer or wine should accompany it.

There was no alcoholic escort for my delicious Whitstable rock-oyster appetiser, however – served instead with shallot vinegar and lemon. Next

came the succulent seared garlic tiger-prawns on a hotplate and sprinkled with chives – superb!

My guest chose a mini baked Camembert served with bread and cranberry chutney... and approved.

That's where the positives ended. For my main, I elected for the Belgian classic steak frites, while my guest chose the La Trappiste burger, meant to take 15 to 20 minutes to cook.

The French couple sat next to us had put in their order while we were receiving our starters – you notice these things when you're nosey. As our starter was being polished off, their main course arrived. This

struck me as a quick turn-around.

I also noticed that what was placed in front of them was the exact same choice as ours. Coincidence? It wasn't until 15 minutes had passed that our waiter arrived to explain that our meals had been given to the French couple, who had ordered something similar. They seemed not to care whether it was what they had ordered and neared completion.

It wasn't a major problem until our food arrived in double-quick time.

My steak was perfectly cooked medium-rare, with chips, flat mushroom and peppercorn sauce. Easy to create when time is suddenly

against the chef, I suppose.

My guest's burger, however, was scorched outside and bone-dry inside, with minimal presentation, presumably due to the rush to rectify the ordering mistake. We decided against a dessert, with the shortened meal coming to £56.25.

What a shame a restaurant that promised something a little different stumbled at the easiest part: getting the food to the right table. Décevant.

■ **La Trappiste**
1-2 Sun Street, Canterbury
CT1 2HX (telephone 01227 479111,
website www.latrappiste.com)



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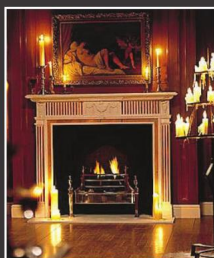
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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

It may be legal but it's still not right

The cruelty involved in transporting live animals over sea and land for sometimes up to 20 hours without a break is unnecessary and barbaric.

We know farmers will maximise their profits in any way they can, and just because it is (at the moment) EU law does not mean it is right.

Pauline Moroney, Chestfield

The suffering is fuelled by greed

If people must eat meat then why should the captive victim suffer? Why can they not be slaughtered, humanely, and then driven in freezer lorries? Who is to benefit by the cruel method of live transport? Certainly not the animals. I suspect it is for greed and for taste buds.

Therese Kearton, via email

How can game be totally organic?

I read your excellent article on game birds recently (KoS 6.10).

Adrian Blackmore from the Countryside Alliance puts forward typical PR jargon, aimed at a gullible public. Think pheasants; majestic eye-catching birds often featuring on Christmas cards, then think intensive farming. An unpleasant thought, carefully avoided.

Apparently game is 'totally natural'. It should be, but I have grave doubts. If game meat is organic it means the animals are being fed organic food. It leads me to believe Mr Blackmore would benefit from further research.

Mary McNulty, Brenchley

All game suffers when it is killed

Adrian Blackmore of the Countryside Alliance claims "game (meat) is totally natural" and that "(pheasants and partridges) are out in the wild", but this is simply not true.

In Britain, hundreds of thousands of breeding birds are confined inside metal battery cages for their entire productive lives. Each year, more than 45 million pheasants and partridges are mass-produced inside hatcheries and rearing sheds. From here, they are moved to fattening pens, before being released to be shot, although most of the released birds die before they can be shot – from disease, starvation, exposure,

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Live export industry is stain on the nation

I am so pleased that your paper has highlighted what happens with live exports.

I am at a loss that a supposed civilised nation can condone and allow such an inhumane trade.

If exports must be made why, in the days of refrigeration, do these poor animals have to

suffer overcrowding, heat and exhaustion only to be finally slaughtered when they reach their destination?

Why can they not be humanely killed before their meat is transferred to wherever it is wanted?

Judi Best, Tunbridge Wells

predation or under the wheels of cars. Therefore 'game' meat production is no more natural and humane than most other meat produced in intensive farms.

If you don't want to eat meat that has involved animal suffering, then please don't eat meat.

Richard Mountford, Animal Aid

No reason to be against airport

There have been two stories that advance the case for a hub airport in north Kent. First, Sir Howard Davies said the case for more runways in the south east had been made. Then scientists produced a report linking aircraft noise and heart disease.

Because hub airports are different from any other, the only solutions are to expand Heathrow or build a new airport. This means the only option is for a new airport where it could run 24/7 and the only place for that is north Kent, which provides the least harmful effect.

We should be delighted; as well as tens of thousands of jobs, our council would receive at least an extra £100 million a year from the airport to raise the standard of our schools, homes, roads and the environment.

All in all, our standard of living would increase greatly.

Who, in their right mind, would argue against this? Bring it on.

Clive Lawrence, DRINK (Demand Regeneration in North Kent)

Paving the way for more road tolls

While agreeing with reader L Frowde (KoS 6.10) that the government giving a French company £367m so it can install electronic tolling at the Dartford crossing is scandalous, to make matters worse, this is a trial for the tolling of all roads. This is EU policy and fully supported by all the main political parties.

Once again drivers are seen as mobile cash points.

Terry Hudson, Whitstable

The Lib Dems are simply hypocrites

Once again I have to take issue with Alan Bullion over his belief that the Lib Dems have made a difference.

Even if it were true, at what price? Reneging on their pledge to oppose any increase in student fees, and 'selling out' on proportional representation. They have also acquiesced on every welfare decision the Tories have made, the result of which is that thousands are in desperate straits; meanwhile the Lib Dems do nothing but prop up the government that's responsible.

The claim they used their influence to persuade the Tories to raise the income tax threshold is a pretty threadbare argument for making the case they are in power. The Conservatives have always been in favour of taxing consumption rather than income, so this was something they would have done anyway.

What Dr Bullion and his fellow Lib Dems seem unable to grasp (or choose to ignore) is the fact all they've done is support a minority party that throws them the occasional crumbs of policy initiatives to keep them on board.

For Nick Clegg to think that it was the right thing to go into a coalition with the Tories, when the Lib Dems emerged from the 2010 election with fewer MPs than when they went into it, was the height of hypocrisy and a huge mistake, and you're going to pay for it at the next General Election.

Christopher Hudson-Gool, via email

We need to talk about housing

As a resident of Sutton Valance, I'm concerned about the lack of serious local debate on the homes we need.

Many of us are finding it hard to save enough to get on the housing ladder, or are struggling with increasing rents while our salaries stay the same. If things don't change, young people in Sutton Valance won't be able to move out of home, or will have to move away.

We all need to be prepared to join in the debate with our councillors to tackle this and think about how we can get homes in the right places at prices that are affordable.

But our community leaders can only act if more people speak up and tell them things must change. There's a campaign, called Yes to Homes, that will show people how we can make them listen.

See www.yestohomes.co.uk to join the debate.

Rachel Smith, Maidstone

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles: **Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

news, comment and advertising.

- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.



Marlowe Theatre

by **Andrew Lechowski**
from Hythe

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(T&C's below)

MARY bubbly young 72, seeking
all, 65 plus male with GSOH for
company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 407823

HAPPY young looking lady, 62,
likes socialising, conversation,
seeking nice man to share good
times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 407363

ANNA, busy mature lady seeks
no strings discreet meetings with
male any age or location. Tel No:
0906 002 1956 Box 356019

AMANDA 44 blonde, blue eyed,
very leggy, fun to be with, honest
and caring seeking kind,
considerate honest gent 74-79
plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 405315

SUE 66, slim, animal lover, 5ft,
blonde, likes socialising, meals
out, theatre, countryside, happy go
lucky, seeks male. Tel No: 0906
515 7112 Box No: 405767

SUSIE, seeks fly shades of grey
with guy any age but must be
discreet, call and I will explain why.
Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box
407321

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes
animals, walks, travel, gardening,
seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 402067

SELSEA 43, driver, own home,
N/S, 5ft 8ins, slim, dark hair, green
eyes, confident, outgoing, likes
most things, seeks N/S male, 40-
48. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box
No: 408405

CARIBBEAN female, 50, honest,
caring, thoughtful, seeking male
for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 408231

CARLY, 25yrs, and v naughty
seeks man for discreet fun. My
includes travel so anywhere is
fine for me. Tel No: 0905 002
1961 Box 350727

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large
build, dog lover, easy-going,
GSOH, seeks male. Tel No: 0906
515 7112 Box No: 403071

JAYNE 44, bored,
underappreciated pretty blue eyed
intelligent lady seeking fun and
interesting professional in similar
situation to me for discreet fun
times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box
No: 403011

GILL 41, shy, lonely single country
loving female with no ties, CHAC,
W/LTM n/s genuine, confident male
companion for friendship, maybe
more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box
No: 402799

LIZ blonde blue eyed curly
female, considered attractive,
tactile, sensual, enjoys music,
entertaining, nice people, seeking
well educated professional 50-
60yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 402773

JO 29 tall slim female who loves
scapes, animals, shopping, being a
mum and am looking for 40's male
with GSOH who will appreciate a
tactile, loving female. Tel No: 0906
515 7112 Box No: 402765

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes,
blonde hair, looking for genuine
male for friendship. Tel No: 0906
515 7112 Box No: 389774

LISA blonde, blue eyes, looking
for male, 42-54 for fun and
romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 404877

52YR old female, single mum of 2,
seeking honest, caring, decent
man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box
No: 389891

ANNA very lonely divorced single
mum with lots of love to give seeks
similar caring male who also wants
to find the right person, any
age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 403481

LISA 39yr old tall slim blonde with
GSOH and a wicked sense of
humour, employed, CHAC,
looking for similar male who
enjoys life as much as I do. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No:
403391

LISA 44, blonde hair, blue eyes,
5ft 8ins, nice personality,
trustworthy, kind, likes cinema,
nights in, walks, music, seeks
male for friendship, maybe more.
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:
404751

SUSAN seeking nice male,
medium build, 35, easygoing, likes
music, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 406779

JACQUELINE 79 widow, easy
going, good listener, not slim or
neurotic, CHAC, 50yrs old,
lovely outgoing like gentlemen's
company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 405533

SLIM N/S female, 54, working,
reliable, easy going, likes nature,
animals, seeks nice male
companion, 50-64,
for countryside walks and meals
out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box
No: 405745

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S,
solvent lady young 50's, likes
travel, red wine, seeks tall,
sincere, Military/professional gent
of high calibre. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 405707

ATTRACTIVE female, 53, N/S, 5ft
8ins, looking for similar male, 50-
55 who loves countryside, animals
and is easygoing. Tel No: 0906
515 7112 Box No: 405421

CLAIRE looking for adventurous
male to live life to the max and
enjoy adult fun times with. Go on
give me a call. Any age. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No: 402993

LYN happy, young looking 72yr
old, seeking interesting man, 65
plus to enjoy life with. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101

GEORGINA widow, W/LTM gent,
50-60 with GSOH for days out,
friendship, companionship, maybe
more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box
No: 393067

SHIRLEY 32 attractive nurse,
enjoys good food/wine, keeping fit,
looking good, searching for non
committed relations with mature
well-dressed man. Any
age/looks/status. Tel No: 0906
515 7112 Box No: 402779

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming,
20-30 to sweep her off her feet. Tel
No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:
392891

ANNA very lonely divorced single
mum with lots of love to give seeks
similar caring male who also wants
to find the right person, any
age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 403481

LISA 39yr old tall slim blonde with
GSOH and a wicked sense of
humour, employed, CHAC,
looking for similar male who
enjoys life as much as I do. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No:
403391

DOG lover short of British slim
petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1
relationship and start something
new. Smoker welcome, area
immaterial. Turbidge Wells area.
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:
404417

COUNTRY loving outgoing
female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins,
genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks
honourable, smart, professional
male, 68-75 to share laughter and
companionship. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 392899

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury,
37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul
mate, preferably with a car. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751

60YR old black female, sociable,
seeks romantic, articulate white
male for friendship, maybe more.
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:
402523

AMANDA 36yr old single female,
blue eyes, curly, really pretty with
lovely smile, loves music, nights
out, W/LTM loving male for dates
and hopeful fr. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 402787

SFT female, brown hair, 39, single
mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy.
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:
397915

MALE 48, 5ft 10ins, medium build,
likes gardening, cinema, reading,
W/LTM lady. Thanet area. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No: 404295

BLACK African lady late 30's, no
ties, likes country walks,
gardening, cinema, seaside,
seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 393272

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes,
5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair,
seeks male, 65-75 for
friendship/companionship, maybe
more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box
No: 403275

CHRIS petite attractive brunette,
enjoys social drinks, meals out,
theatre, seeks hardworking
professional male looking for adult
attention too. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 402759

47YR old female, fun loving, green
eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S
male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights
out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287

DELLAH 49, likes animals,
blonde, blue eyes, seeking older
gent, late 70's who is kind and
willing to care about me. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769

21YR old slim figured female, no
ties, looking for male 30-45yrs for
non committed relationship,
discretion assured. Tel No: 0906
515 7112 Box No: 402761

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins,
seeks tall, honest guy from
Medway towns. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 389027

MICHELLE petite fun female,
outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad,
CHAC and pretty self-sufficient,
looking for someone to share a LTR
with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box
No: 399515

Men Seeking

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below)

55YR old male, average looks,
GSOH, looking to meet similar lady
for friendship, maybe more. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No: 402827

MALE 67, fit, 5ft 10ins, GSOH,
young outlook, medium build, no
ties, travelled, likes most things,
romantic, tactile, seeks slim lady.
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:
408143

JAMIE 6ft 1ins, dark hair, blue
eyes, seeks female, 40-50, easy
going for no strings fun, nights in.
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:
408051

ADAM 48, single dad, bored,
seeking fun and more. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar
age for meals out, holidays etc. Tel
No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415

RETIRED male, seeks no strings
discreet meals with slim-medium
build female, any age for adult fun,
Medway area. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 408343

SEXY fireman, looking for love and
fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box
No: 407883

MALE 67, professional, fit, 5ft
10ins, medium build, reliable,
tactile, likes most things, seeks slim
lady, lets go! Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 407855

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58
for friendship, maybe more. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382

JACQUELINE 82, widow, car
driver, not slim, ugly or neurotic,
seeks interesting, caring gent, 70
plus for talk and company. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No: 403659

BEV very attractive lady who loves
cosy nights in, seeks caring man
who can put the spring back in my
step and twinkle back in my eye,
call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 403353

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable,
friendly, seeking similar N/S
solvent, presentable, easygoing
male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 394843

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build
plus a few pounds, blonde hair,
blue eyes, looking for man for
dates. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box
No: 401421

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking
gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe
more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box
No: 405521

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy
life a little more, seeking likeminded
male to enjoy interesting
conversations over dinner,
hopefully furthering our experience.
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:
399195

SANDRA outgoing 53, career, seeks
male for friendship. Tel No: 0906
515 7112 Box No: 390230

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins,
considerate, GSOH, easy-going,
likes driving, shopping, most
music, seeking lady 60-70 for
friendship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906
515 7112 Box No: 404589

TALL friendly, light hearted,
single, 58, seeks pretty woman
for LTR with mutual selection of
activities and choosing how to
spend our time. Tel No: 0906
515 7112 Box No: 405557

70YRS young male, good
looking, GSOH, seeking lady for
love and affection. Tel No: 0906
515 7112 Box No: 403455

RONALD 65 plus, 5ft 8ins, slim,
sociable, GSOH, tactile, N/S,
many interests, seeking lady
dance partner to learn ballroom
and Latin. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 403211

STEVE 64, active, likes fishing,
swimming, karaoke, honest,
genuine, seeks female. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No: 405717

CANTERBURY sign language
interpreter 58, 5ft 10ins, medium
build, GSOH, varied interests,
seeks slim-medium build female.
21-42 for LTR. Single mum
welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 405897

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely,
5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives,
walks, DIY, meals out, gardening,
smoker, looking for lady to spend
life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 405519

35YR old male, 6ft, dark hair,
easy going, likes music, films,
reading, walks, looking for
female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 405941

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes
eating/drinking about seeks loving
female for fr. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 404013

TALL slim male, early 40's, seeks
loving female, 28-39 to share the
rice things in life. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 407065

CANTERBURY white mature
male, medium build, GSOH, varied
interests, seeks slim-medium build
black/white/Asian/oriental female,
20-40 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 405697

BLACK male,
looking for 1-2-1
relationship with laid
back, understanding,
female. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 405221

DISCREET kind man, 48,
gentle, loving, genuine, seeking
lady, Whitstable. Tel No: 0906
515 7112 Box No: 406439

RICHARD divorced, 61, N/S,
likes classic cars, looking to meet
nice lady for meals out, days out,
friendship, maybe more. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No:
406349

BRIAN 6ft 3ins, medium build,
blue eyes, brown hair, fun loving,
happy go lucky, honest, seeks
special lady for fun and to enjoy
life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 406333

MIKE 39, 6ft 7ins, large build,
blue eyes, seeks female. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No:
406321

DEREK Croydon area, 52, self
employed, seeks female for 1-2-1
relationship, likes meals out,
places of interest, holidays. Tel
No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:
406559

OUTGOING professional, fun
loving, entertaining male,
seeking warm, sincere, fun loving
female for LTR. Animals/children
welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 405633

40 something Gemini 5ft 10ins,
slim, GSOH, varied outdoor
interests, seeks similar outgoing
female, 30-45 for dates and LTR.
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:
404535

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build,
seeks female 55-75 for
friendship, possible LTR. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No:
401913

PROFESSIONAL male, early
40's, CHAC, independent, seeks
warm, sincere, fun loving female
for LTR. Children/animals
welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 404537

THANET male, young mid 60's,
caring, 5ft 8ins, dark hair, likes
travel, countryside, seeks slim,
attractive local soul mate. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No: 403729

MICHAEL slim, 44, likes CD
films, seeks older female 55 plus
for fun times in the Thanet area.
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:
404373

DENNIS 53yrs retired police
officer living in Kent, W/LTM
female for mutual fun and
friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 404201

GARDENER 50, 6ft, honest,
happy, single, fit, gentleman seeks
attractive younger lady for fun
NSA nights in, weekends away,
country walks, picnics and good
conversation. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 404115

ACTIVE 60's semi-retired man,
CHAC, GSOH, enjoys theatre,
dancing, singing, amateur
dramatics, coast, gardening etc.
W/LTM n/s female with similar
interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 404671

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to
find fantastic lady for fr and
fascinating future for LTR. Find
your jnr half full. Tel No: 0906
515 7112 Box No: 405857

DAVE 45, 6ft, large build, ginger
hair, green eyes, caring, CHAC,
likes laugh, cinema, pubs,
restaurants, walks, shopping,
music, dvds, gardening, animals,
seeks female of similar age. Tel
No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:
405451

SALVATORE 68, N/S, widow,
Italian, seeking female for
friendship, maybe more. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No: 402481

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed,
good cook/house, seeks female
for fun and good times. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No:
402405



Gay Seeking

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RON 60, overweight, passive,
seeking active guy for daytime fun.
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:
407437

TV/BI CD, seeks feminine male
with similar interests for discreet
daytime meets. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 406735

PETER looking for male, 30-60 for
casual fun times. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 406049

THANET male, mid 60's,
inexperienced, seeks male of
similar age for occasional
meetings and mutual interests. Tel
No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:
405863

MALE 30's, straight acting, down
to earth, caring, seeks masculine,
straight acting male for friendship,
maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 407987

MATURE bi guy, assertive,
seeking passive, mature guy for
daytime fun. Kent/Surrey/SE
London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 407659

BI guy, CD, 57, CHAC, seeking
similar for mutual fun and
friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 404907

EASY-GOING guy, medium build,
likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim,
N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 403267

Friendship

JACK mature male, Thanet area,
seeks friends of either sex, any
age for chats. Tel No: 0906 515
7112 Box No: 399455

STRAIGHT male, 39, Medway,
seeks pals for socialising, likes
pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis,
football. Tel No: 0906 515 7112
Box No: 398421

STRAIGHT male, 40, Medway,
seeks sports buddies into table
tennis, golf, snooker and pool. Tel
No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:
405417

MALE early 80's, fit, active, many
interests, seeks similar male for
friendship and company. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No: 401621

YVONNE 60, seeks male/female
friends for chats, any age. Tel No:
0906 515 7112 Box No: 397641

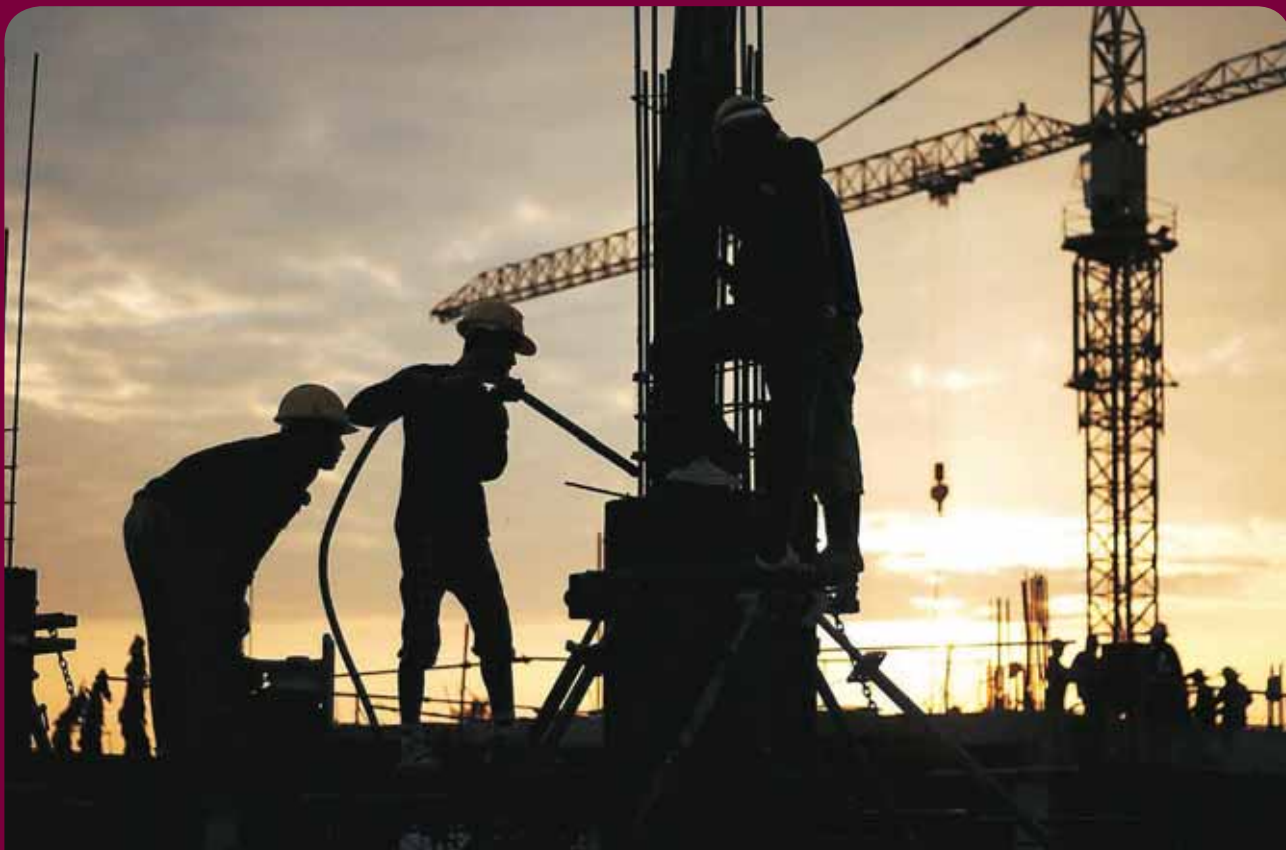
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Economic optimism built on findings of property report

A review of county's economic sector and current regeneration programmes shows some encouraging signs of a strengthening recovery, reports **Joe Bill...**

THE mythical green shoots of recovery may finally be poking their heads out of the harsh economic soil in the county, according to a major research document released this week.

By gauging the cost of property in both the commercial and retail sectors, the 2013 Kent Property Market Report, published on Thursday, painted an optimistic picture, while remaining cautious about the speed of the recovery.

The suggestion was also very much that there is a long road to go before the markets return to pre-recession levels.

But after such hardships, the business community will cling to any signs of improvement.

The report examined figures for

2012, reviewing the county's commercial, retail, tourism, rural and residential markets and its regeneration programmes and was produced by Kent County Council (KCC), leading international property consultants and chartered surveyors Caxtons, and investment promotion agency Locate in Kent.

Despite conditions still proving extremely challenging, rents in the county's high streets continued their upward trend; outperforming the rest of the south east.

Leisure and tourism's contribution to the county's economy also grew by £200 million to £3.4 billion with a total of 57 million visitors heading to Kent helping to support more than 65,000 jobs.

The report, unveiled at Sand-

wich's Discovery Park, also highlighted the much trumpeted £60m being made available to businesses across the county from the Regional Growth Fund and financial support programmes including Expansion East Kent and Tiger (Thames Gateway Innovation, Growth and Enterprise).

KCC's cabinet member for economic development Mark Dance said: "We know businesses across the county are still coming to terms with the challenging financial environment, but the news of an emerging economic recovery is very welcome."

"I am also delighted to learn of the expected growth in creative, digital, hi-tech, environmental and land-based sectors."

Kent's residential property market also made a small step forward with average house values increasing by 1.1 per cent year-on-year to April 2013 – just below the UK average, which has been buoyed by increasing confidence in the London marketplace.

The increase in demand from buyers has also meant there has been an equivalent rise in land sales as well as developers securing sites, generally a key sign of a returning confidence.

The report hailed major development sites at the Thames Gateway and Ashford for "opening up some of the most significant investment opportunities in the region".

Continued on page 60 »

Training, courses & careers

Top teachers get chance to shine

College chief fears apprentice reforms could deter firms

GOVERNMENT proposals which would radically reform the funding of apprenticeships have been questioned by leading representatives from Kent's business and further education community.

The reforms are currently being consulted upon jointly by the Government's Department for Business Innovation & Skills and Department for Education.

Three proposals are being put forward. One is to channel training funding via the employer - which would see the employer have to reclaim money spent up to a maximum of 70 per cent.

The second would see funds being made via the PAYE system,

rather than directly into the employer's bank account, while the third proposes funding via a single training provider.

Employers would pay an agreed contribution toward the training cost, with current figures suggesting this would be 30 per cent.

Senior figures in the county are concerned, however.

Graham Razey, principal of East Kent College, which last year placed nearly 300 apprenticeships with local businesses, said: "We all recognise that skills are a vital part of a business' ability to grow and nurture the talent of our young people. However, to place a greater burden on the employer in



CHANGES: Could economic recovery be slowed by government reform?

terms of the cost and time it takes to manage apprenticeships could discourage many from offering them.

"Not only would this reduce access to much needed training for our young people, it would importantly hold back our economic recovery."

Geoff Miles, chairman of the

Kent Economic Board, said: "For apprenticeships to work they require the commitment of everybody concerned; the employer, the individual trainee and also the Government.

"Kent has made huge strides in terms of promoting apprenticeships; it is vital we do all we can to make them work for local firms."

TEACHING excellence has been recognised in the 2013 University of Kent Teaching Prize Awards.

The annual awards showcase how Kent's academics develop new and better methods of delivering their courses to ensure students get the best possible learning experience at the university.

Thirteen Kent academics were recognised at a ceremony staged at the university's Canterbury campus earlier this month.

Pick your course now for next year

North West Kent College is holding an open day on November 6 at both its Dartford and Gravesend campuses for those looking for a course beginning next September.

It hopes to attract youngsters looking for options outside of schools with a wider range of vocational topics.

The open days run from 3pm to 8pm.

» What is your business doing to help our young people? If you have a good news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call 01303 817100.

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« Continued from page 59

Commercially, Kent's business parks remained steady in terms of average rental growth and yields, but occupier demand was still low.

The office sector continued to see falls in average rents, although the rate slowed from -5.6 per cent in 2011, to -2.6 per cent in 2012 - with much of this being blamed on companies seeking 'safe haven' investments in London.

Chairman of Caxtons Ron Roser was pleased with the outcome of the research.

He said: "Kent's property sector is showing signs of growth, following what was undoubtedly another challenging year.

"Concerted efforts to attract new investment and support commercial growth are helping, with continued focus on unlocking major development sites in the county.

"Confidence is returning and there is buoyancy across the sector that extends from construction to sales and lettings, whether in the commercial or residential field.

"The report shows Kent is set to take advantage of the recent International Monetary Fund U-turn on UK growth, published in its six-monthly World Economic Outlook, now forecasting a 1.4 per cent increase in GDP by the end of 2013."

In the industrial and distribution sector there was less encouraging news as rents fell, reflecting a lack of business confidence.

Warehouse average rents also fell by 1.2 per cent to -0.02 per cent after two years of growth, a positive position compared to a 1.5 per cent drop in the south east as a whole.

There was praise for major infrastructure investments of recent years, such as High Speed One and the opportunities that it encourages in east Kent.

The report also predicted growth in sectors including life sciences, environmental goods and services, advanced manufacturing and the creative and digital sectors.



GOOD: KCC's Mark Dance welcomed news

Foreign investment and incoming businesses have also played a part in helping Kent's economy recover, according to chief executive of Locate in Kent Paul Wookey.

He added: "In 2012-13, we helped 60 companies to set up, move to or expand in Kent, creating 1,363 jobs and safeguarding 1,065, and the first half of 2013-14 was also positive.

"Successes in 2012-13 included 15 overseas companies, many from the US, France and Germany - where we have recently appointed investment agencies to help us attract new prospects - but also from Denmark, India and New Zealand.

"Those figures, and the pipeline of interest that we have, support the Kent Property Market Report's confidence that the county, with its first-class infrastructure and financial incentives, is in a great position to make the most of the recovering economy."

It's time for optimism as investment opens new doors to growth

Paul Wookey, chief executive of Locate in Kent, the county's investment promotion agency, believes there are indications Kent's economy is getting back on track...

THE past year has been another challenging one for businesses in Kent, no one would pretend otherwise, but there are plenty of reasons now to be positive.

Businesses are reporting increased orders, millions of pounds of investment incentives are on offer and Kent has major strengths in high-value industries that are likely to grow.

More than £60 million is being made available across the county from the Regional Growth Fund including financial support programmes such as Expansion East Kent, TIGER and Escalate. These funds aren't just open to companies coming into Kent; businesses within the county are eligible to apply and many have done so successfully, planting the seeds for future economic growth in the region.

Discovery Park, the former home of Pfizer, is an example of the county's ability to take a blow and still regenerate. Yes, it was bad when Pfizer reduced its staff to 670 at Sandwich,



POSITIVE: Paul Wookey

but the facilities it left behind are attractive to high-tech and life science businesses, with many already at home at Discovery Park and more

showing interest in relocating there.

Couple Discovery Park with locations such as Kent Science Park and the county is attractive to business in sectors that have real growth potential and where we are able to attract companies from abroad, known as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

This is important as investment tends to be greater in both capital and jobs terms than that of domestic businesses, and companies that move here from abroad often reinvest later.

Kent is at the forefront of the development of offshore wind energy, being one of six UK national Centres for Offshore Renewable Engineering (COREs) – a partnership with the Government to support business growth.

The CORE includes Ramsgate, at the heart of east Kent, where investment is crucial to the regeneration of the local economy. We have the operations and maintenance centre for London Array, the world's largest offshore wind farm, as well as a base for

Vattenfall, Kent's other offshore wind farm operator. Local people have found jobs with both organisations.

How does this help your business? Well, for every 10 jobs Locate in Kent helps attract to or retain within the county, three further jobs are created in the wider economy, and more people working within the county means more people with money to spend with local businesses.

In 2012-13, 2,864 job successes from 60 companies were recorded by Locate in Kent. The number of prospects at home and abroad showing interest in the county included 185 in east Kent. Of those, many are in the life sciences sector.

Elsewhere, 164 projects are in the pipeline for the Thames Gateway area, 160 for Maidstone and Ashford, and 85 for west Kent.

There is no denying that, like the rest of the country, Kent has suffered in recent years, but the foundations are now in place for the county to grow and prosper.

Harbour confirms new chief

CHIEFS at Dover Harbour Board have announced that acting chief executive Tim Waggott has been confirmed in the role on a permanent basis.

Chairman of the board, George Jenkins OBE, has stood by his original assessment of Mr Waggott saying that he possessed the right experience and drive to take the organisation forward.

He said: "It is clear to the board that Tim has now demonstrated his ability to undertake the role on a permanent basis. He has quickly established improving relationships with the customers and the community as well as implementing organisational changes. I am therefore pleased to confirm and congratulate Tim on his appointment as chief executive."

Mr Jenkins also paid tribute to the efforts of the port's many stakeholders in helping the Port of Dover emerge from an unsettling period. He added: "I am sure that with continuing teamwork we will deliver a tangible improvement to both port and town in an exciting future."

Mr Waggott joined the Port of Dover in April 2007 as director of finance and commerce having previously held executive positions with the

Port of Shoreham as well as the south east's largest independent letting agent Leaders Group Ltd.



Disney to share secrets of its success at training day

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

IT MAY conjure up images of pink towers and talking cartoon ducks but there is nothing Mickey Mouse about the Disney Institute which is coming to Kent next month to teach the tricks of business excellence.

The training arm of the famous movie makers is coming to Canterbury Cathedral on November 20 to deliver a tailor-made UK business programme designed to help clients gain insight into the company's approach to quality service, creativity and innovation.

The training academy will be inviting customer-facing teams and managers to learn about the management techniques, recruitment and brand loyalty that have kept Disney in the spotlight for more than 85 years.

Visit Kent chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh said she was delighted to bring it to Kent having attended a training session herself.

She said: "This is an exceptional opportunity for Kent businesses to learn from one of the best

in customer service, employee motivation and empowerment. I found the Disney Institute training extremely pertinent, especially in these tough economic times, with rising customer expectations. Not just theory, programmes offer an insider's look into business philosophies that make Disney one of the most admired brands in the world."

Walt Disney and his brother Roy founded their animation studio in 1923 with little experience in managing a business. However, Walt's dream of creating entertainment experiences and Roy's business background proved to be a winning combination.

But, as Disney programme director Bruce Jones explains, it still took a lot of business elements including creativity, risk-taking and recruitment to bring their dreams to reality.

He said: "Disney's Approach to Business Excellence programme will offer businesses a sound investment in team development. Clients will gain an understanding of Disney's tried and tested policies and practices, adapting them for their own organisations to make real, long-lasting improvements."



MidKent College



Students unsure if university is right for them are being urged to consider enrolling on a higher education course at MidKent College.

With campuses in Medway and Maidstone, MidKent College offers a number of Higher National Diplomas/Certificates and foundation degrees at just £5,950 a year – far less than the £9,000 maximum charged by some universities.

Students who enrol on an HE course at the College are also guaranteed the highest quality of teaching within state-of-the-art premises, with all courses validated by the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University or Edexcel.

Courses are available in the following subjects: Applied Science; Built Environment; Business;

HR; IT; Education; Engineering; Entrepreneurship; Health and Social Care; Hospitality and Event Management; Performing Arts; Security; and Sport and Leisure Management.

Director of HE development Stephen Batchelor said: "Money should not be a barrier to education, which is why we try to keep our course fees as low as possible."

"We have designed a series of qualifications that will provide people with the skills and abilities they need to be successful in building a career and gaining an edge in the ever-more crowded job market, making higher education a worthwhile long-term investment."

Visit www.midkent.ac.uk for more information.

It is never too late to develop your skill set and there are plenty of

Solicitors steam ahead with thriving commercial team



GIRLINGS Solicitors commercial team has added two corporate specialists who are clearly making a great impression among east Kent businesses.

Adrian Chaffey joined the firm towards the end of last year and now heads its corporate and commercial group. Joanna Duncan joined his team in June.

To Girlings Solicitors' increasing number of clients, both Adrian and

Joanna bring years of experience.

"I've been struck by the range of our mainly Kent-based clients here, and the enthusiasm they bring to their businesses," said Adrian.

"We're advising both new management teams and well-established businesses and in many different sectors, from multi-national technology businesses and major regional construction companies to niche insurance firms and specialist

providers of residential care.

"But the best thing about it is to see them move their businesses to the next stage and helping them get there. That's really satisfying."

Girlings, a leading regional law firm, has managed the legal affairs of commercial, family and individual clients for more than 132 years and has offices in Canterbury, Ashford, Herne Bay and Margate.

Be it buying property, employing

staff, recovering debts or solving disputes, Girlings can help you.

In addition, it offers a full range of services for individuals, including separation or divorce, wills and inheritance, buying and selling property, employee law, financial services and accident claims.

Phone the commercial team on 01233 664711; private clients can call 01227 768374. Or visit www.girlings.com for further information.



Scholarships open up private learning

HAVE you just received your child's 11+ results?

If you have a current Year 6 child, whether they have passed the 11+ or not, have you considered looking at St Lawrence College in Ramsgate for the next stage of their education?

St Lawrence College is proud of its high academic standards and this year is celebrating higher A-level grades at A*-B percentage than both

local selective grammar schools.

These results are fostered by a close sense of community and supportive atmosphere that puts great emphasis on the needs of each individual pupil.

■ Your Year 6 child is welcome to sit the school's forthcoming scholarship tests for entry into Year 7 in September 2014.

■ The scholarship tests take place

on Thursday, November 21.

■ Depending upon the results, up to 50 per cent of the fees could be awarded.

■ Scholarships are offered for academic, all-rounder, sports and music disciplines.

Phone Alison Hall, registrar, on 01843 572931 for an informal discussion about scholarships. Visit www.slucuk.com for more details.

Pilgrims Corner Fostering Ltd is owned and managed by staff who have themselves been foster carers and outreach workers. We aim to provide the best quality care to children and young people during a difficult time in their life.

As a company, we realise that our carers need a support package to assist them to work effectively and as part of this we offer:

- 24 hr support
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- NVQ 3 training
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The team at Pilgrims Corner Education Ltd come from a wide range of professional backgrounds in education, management, foster care and business. All of the team members are united under the common objective of providing excellent care for young people who are not in full-time education.

About Us

The team at Pilgrims Corner Education Ltd come from a wide range of professional backgrounds in education, management, foster care and business. All of the team members are united under the common objective of providing excellent day-care for young people who are not in full-time education. A young person may have been in care and unable to find a school placement or may have struggled with the main stream school curriculum and would therefore benefit from a more intimate learning environment (smaller class sizes and a less formal approach to education

Tel: 01227 370808 or write to: Pilgrims Corner Education Ltd
Verona House 45 Station Road Herne Bay Kent
Alternatively visit our website at www.pilgrimscorner.co.uk



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Adding colour to life

YOUNGSTERS have helped to brighten up the lives of dementia sufferers.

Dartford deputy mayor Avtar Sandhu attended the unveiling of a 40-metre mural that first-year young artists at North West Kent College painted in the previously dull courtyard of the Littlestone's Continuing Care Unit for dementia in Stone.

Twenty-four young artists aged 16-25 were involved in the planning, design and implementation of the mural, which covers three of the walls in the courtyard.

The fine artists only started at NWK College this September on the fine-art level 3 diploma. In just five weeks they have not just proven their artistic talent but the ability to work quickly on a project in a team of people they have never met before.

Kate Jenkins, fine-art tutor, said: "I'm very pleased – they've taken to the project really well and have created a brilliant mural using their skills so early on in their course."

The young artists researched British culture from the eras that the patients at Littlestone's would have been in their 20s – the age they most remember.

The mural reflects a 1940s-1980s British culture theme including the likes of The Beatles, Freddie Mercury,



Pacman, The Wizard of Oz and a 50s seaside scene with Punch and Judy.

Littlestone's continuing-care unit ward manager Mark Amos said: "They've done a fantastic job. I only gave them a brief outline of what we wanted and they've come up with this wonderful artwork."

"I really do think this will help our patients – the use of vibrant colours teamed with iconic moments in history are really stimulating for dementia sufferers. This was the first collaboration we've done with the community, and NWK College has proved it was definitely worth doing"

Avtar spoke to the young artists

and staff at Littlestone's about the project, even suggesting a First World War mural for the 100-year anniversary in 2014 on the remaining courtyard wall.

Addressing them, Avtar said: "It's fantastic to see the bright vibrant colours you've used and I think it's great Littlestone's is working with the community."

For more information on art courses at North West Kent College, there is an open day on Wednesday, November 6, at both the Dartford and Gravesend campuses.

Visit www.nwkcollege.ac.uk or phone 0800 074 1447 for details.



Helping you to care

PILGRIMS Corner Fostering is owned and managed by staff who have themselves been foster-carers and outreach workers – this gives them excellent working knowledge and experience in their roles.

We aim to provide the best-quality care to children and young people during a difficult time in their life by placing them with the best-quality, highly-skilled and trained foster families.

As a company, we realise our carers need a support package to assist them to work effectively and as part of this we offer:

- 24-hour support
- out-of-hours service
- 20 days' respite per annum
- NVO 3 training
- Excellent remuneration
- Regular social-work visits
- ongoing training

If you are interested in becoming a foster-carer or in fostering services and would like an information pack, please contact us at Pilgrims Corner Education Ltd, Verona House, 45 Station Road, Herne Bay CT16 5QQ.

You can also call 01227 370808 or visit www.pilgrimscorner.co.uk to find out more.

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Help to Buy has brought more people to market

There really is reason to be cheerful about the future, with the property market showing improvements, says **Sue Taylor**

WITH sustained improvement in the housing market now confirmed, it seems that the property industry is going from strength to strength.

Reports flood in from media outlets daily about the buoyant property market, with the more sceptical among them warning of a housing bubble.

Such speculation has been rife since the announcement from the Office of National Statistics that yearly property prices in London had jumped by 10 per cent to July 2013.

With the 2008 recession still fresh in our minds, last week this prompted action from the Bank of England to announce that it would be watching the housing market carefully for signs of overheating in order to take any necessary action.

However, from the more considered opinion among the analysts it seems no action will be necessary as affordability remains at the same levels as a decade ago and, while widespread growth is being experienced, in some areas the increases are still marginal.

The brunt of these increases are being seen in the South East and in London, which places investors, developers and property-hunters alike in a good position to make the most of this growth.

One of the key reasons for this sudden interest in the new-homes market is of course the much-debated Help to Buy scheme, where the Government offers an equity loan of up to 20 per cent for buying new



homes. This of course makes purchasing a home far more affordable and gives buyers access to the better mortgage rates available.

The take-up for this scheme has been very successful – it is estimated that an additional 660,000 buyers are being brought to the housing market through this method.

Although not all developers can access the scheme yet, and it only applies to homes below £600,000, there are still a number of schemes offering this service.

See the RPC website at www.rpclanglandandnewhomes.co.uk for details of developments offering Help to Buy.



Sue Taylor is new homes director at RPC Land and New Homes.

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seaside town of Forti dei Marmi has been described as the region's Beverly Hills and here we enjoy free drinks every night at our hotel. The towns of Lucca, Pisa, Florence and Portovenere (with access to the stunning higgledy-piggledy villages of Cinque Terra) are a short drive away. There is also the opportunity to visit Portofino.

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Dirty Dancing Christmas Party



Quote: DDT1-KOS

PONTINS PAKEFIELD VILLAGE SUFFOLK COAST - SELF-DRIVE
3 nights half board
+ 99p Bar - £109pp
Friday 8 November, 2013

99p DRINKS

OVER 40s ONLY

Join us for a fabulous festive party at Pontins Pakefield, near Lowestoft. Enjoy the classic sounds of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons with top tribute Let's Hang On, a spectacular Dirty Dancing stage show and movie screening, plus a top comedian in cabaret. We have reserved the whole resort for over 40s only.

YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES:

- 99p bar 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners



Quote: MX11-KOS

PONTINS PAKEFIELD VILLAGE SUFFOLK COAST - SELF-DRIVE
3 nights half board
+ 99p Bar - £109pp
Friday 15 November, 2013

99p DRINKS

OVER 40s ONLY

We're taking a trip down memory lane with a great line up of original 60s bands and a tiny bit of the 70s - Love Grows hit the number 1 spot for Edison Lighthouse 30th Jan 1970. There will be plenty of Festive and nostalgic fun too at Pontins Pakefield, near Lowestoft. We have reserved the whole resort for over 40s only.

YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES:

- 99p bar 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners



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Quote: CO1-KOS

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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SWITCHED ON: Nissan Leaf now offers an £850 on-board adapter, halving the amount of time it takes to charge from eight to four hours

Nissan turns a 'nearly' new Leaf

JUST in time for autumn, Nissan's all-electric Leaf has fallen in price by some £5,000 to start at £20,990 – after taking the Government's £5,000 alternative vehicles grant into account.

Leasing deals for the car or its battery pack can further boost the seasonal Leaf fall, and it's more than a marketing ploy: the Japanese marque has carried out a striking revamp including more than 100 changes, though the slippery exterior of Europe's Car of the Year 2011 looks more or less unchanged.

'Buy British' fans must also note that all UK and European Leaf production is now based at Nissan's Sunderland plant, creating UK jobs there and at related suppliers.

It all adds up to a far more practical and appealing proposition, even if the Leaf's range still won't impress anyone outside a major urban area.

Nissan now quotes 123 miles between full charges instead of 108, though this actually does little to ease a user's 'range anxiety' or fear of the batteries going flat before you reach your destination.

Like a wartime pilot nursing an ailing aircraft back to Blighty, this

Other view...

the Petrolhead

Why waste money on this? I like the acceleration potential in electric cars, but I say we will wait a long time for some practicality.

the Woman Driver

I can applaud what it stands for, but it's dull inside and out and I would be forever worrying about keeping it charged up.

the Eco-warrior

Naturally, I like it and electric cars can only get better, but they are a bit pointless when most electricity comes from 'dirty' power stations.

neurosis soon has you switching off 'non-essentials' like phone-charging, radio and fan so as to eke out the range and, hopefully, make it back to base.

Fact is, quoted range usually has little to do with actual range for electric cars anyway, since cold temperatures and clumsy driving style or simple motorway progress will soon decimate 'official' figures, though the revised Leaf has more capacity to recover energy when braking or backing off the throttle.

Another bugbear tackled is the time taken to refuel electric vehicles like the Leaf. A standard 13-amp socket needs several hours to get a sensible amount of juice back into the batteries.

Nissan has tackled this by offering an £850 on-board adapter, halving a full charge from eight to four hours and allowing quick top-ups in situations where a commuter or shopper leaves the car to restore range for the journey home while otherwise occupied.

The on-board charging point in the nose of the car has also been remodelled.

Only a switch inside the car could open it before, but this can now be

done via the key fob, while there's a small LED beneath the lid making the socket easier to locate at night or in an underground car park.

I never had too many complaints about living with the Leaf.

Electric cars are dull to drive, with the gears and so much else managed automatically, but the Leaf is one of the better ones and Nissan has made welcome improvements.

The interior gives less of an impression that it was inspired by some long-dead sci-fi TV series but still comes with lots of equipment – as it should at the price.

And the 80kw electric motor – equivalent to 108bhp – delivers huge up-front torque or pulling power.

This isn't obvious from the quoted 0-62mph in 11.9 seconds but ideal for the urban cut and thrust that is the car's forte, though you must be mindful of sapping the range.

Keep it sensible, though, and the roomy full five-seat cabin is tranquil and relaxing with excellent ride quality and only a whisper from the tyres and air passing over the Leaf's slippery bodywork.

It also handles well, thanks to the hefty weight of powertrain and batteries being mounted low down.



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The Qashqai killer

NEVER mind the Nissan Qashqai, Suzuki could claim its previous SX4 model was the original crossover. But if it missed acclaim there, Suzuki aims to make amends this time round with a beefier rival to the ubiquitous Nissan.

The new SX4 S-Cross (from £14,999) is both capable and well priced, with big selling points like the world's first double sliding panoramic glass sun-roof and class-leading 430-litre boot.



Dealers covet Kia

KIA continues to show its steady rise after being named National Franchised Dealers' Association Manufacturer of the Year – the brand that dealers most desire.

The Korean manufacturer, which has transformed its image with buyers and the trade over the past five years through cars like the Sportage SUV and Ceed family hatch (pictured), beat off stiff competition from premium marques BMW and Land Rover to clinch the award.



Meriva makeover

VAUXHALL'S Meriva has gained refreshed front-end styling and the option of a new class-leading diesel engine.

The second-generation Meriva turned the compact MPV class on its head, with clever FlexDoors – rear-hinged rear doors allowing a 20 per cent larger opening for passengers – and versatile rear-seating options.

It now gets a low emission (116g/km of CO₂) and frugal 1.6 CDTi diesel option offering 64.2mpg combined.

PULLING POWER: Chevrolet's pugnacious Trax is keenly priced and comes with the brand's five-year/100,000-mile warranty, making it an attractive buy

FOR any other type of car, being likened to a Staffordshire bull terrier is a highly-damning comment on its looks.

But my young's son's perceptive verdict on the stance of the Chevrolet Trax was not necessarily harsh: the car's pugnacious appeal suits it better than the closely-related Mokka, from Chevy's General Motors sister brand, Vauxhall.

With the Mokka, it's almost as if someone tried to breed the 'staffy' out of it but could do nothing about its inherent stockiness and bow legs.

The Trax, on the other hand, seems happier in its skin and even has a name to fit those rugged looks – making 4x4 tracks also being an option on this and the Mokka.

And, as ever with Chevrolet, the Trax (from £15,495) combines the brand's value-for-money pitch and five-year/100,000-mile warranty, plus some transatlantic mystique – can you think of another car brand that turns up in so many American songs?

There's kudos attached, too, through Chevrolet's claim to have invented the sports utility vehicle (SUV) in 1935 by launching the Carryall Suburban.

But the big selling point is the keen pricing from £15,495, which rather puts the mockers on the Mokka (from £18,059). Aside from the risk of cannibalising each other's sales, both GM cars also face an established if slightly smaller star at this level, the Nissan Juke (from £12,995).

This has real 'Marmite motor' looks, though, and, if we're talking dogs again, closely resembles a pug – with headlamps to match those eyes. If you want a more elegant 'breed', then Renault's new Captur leads the pack.

Whatever the looks, cars like these tend to attract image-conscious townies who enjoy active lifestyles, or like to give the impression they do, yet also want economy and practicality.

The Trax might attract with Tonka Toy visual impact, but it enjoys a surprisingly compact on-road footprint 4.2 metres long, 1.7m wide and 1.6m high while still offering a roomy cabin plus a maximum 1,370-litre cargo area, with even more stowage beneath the boot floor.

Device connectivity is another plus,

Chevrolet is making Trax in the SUV sector

Terrier-like tenacity and looks make the Chevrolet Trax an intriguing alternative in a fast-growing compact SUV sector. And, as **Steve Loader** is keen to point out, it is also very aggressively priced...

with USB and aux inputs as standard and, on upmarket models, Chevy's MyLink facility synching with the driver's phone books, personal playlists, photo galleries and other stored media on his or her personal phone and MP3-player; surely this is the way personal in-car technology will go?

Three engines are offered: a turbocharged 140bhp 1.4-litre petrol unit, normally-

aspirated 115bhp 1.6-litre petrol and a 130bhp 1.7-litre turbodiesel engine – all manual versions come with Stop/Start, thereby saving fuel and emissions in busy traffic.

The front-wheel-drive turbodiesel tested here (from £18,945) is the economy star, with a potential 62.7mpg on the combined cycle, but commands a £1,450 premium over 1.6 petrol equivalents, prompting the





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Airdream+ 5dr C3 Diesel Hatch, 4,541 miles

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Exclusive 5dr C3 Diesel Hatch, 8,428 miles

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(07) 2007 Citroën C3 1.4i £3,995
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(13) 2013 Citroën C3 1.4 e-HDi VTR+ £11,995
Airdream 5dr EGS Diesel Hatch, 3,500 miles

CITROËN C3 PICASSO

(10) 2010 Citroën C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 16V £8,495
Exclusive 5dr Diesel Estate, 16,945 miles

(10) 2010 Citroën C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 16V £8,495
Exclusive 5dr Diesel Estate, 29,631 miles

(59) 2009 Citroën C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 16V £8,995
Exclusive [110] 5dr Diesel Estate, 33,743 miles

(13) 2013 Citroën C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 8V £11,495
Selection 5dr Estate Special Edition, 6,000 miles

(13) 2013 Citroën C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 8V £11,995
Exclusive 5dr Diesel Estate, 9,300 miles

CITROËN C4

(60) 2010 Citroën C4 1.6 HDi 16V £8,495
Exclusive [110] 5dr EGS Diesel Hatch, 32,066 miles

(60) 2010 Citroën C4 1.6 HDi 16V £8,995
Exclusive [110] 5dr EGS Diesel Hatch, 23,400 miles

(11) 2011 Citroën C4 1.6 HDi VTR+ £9,495
5dr C4 Diesel Hatch, 29,879 miles

CITROËN C4 PICASSO

(08) 2008 Citroën C4 Picasso 1.8i 16V VTR+ £6,495
5dr [5 Seat] Estate, 53,325 miles

(60) 2010 Citroën C4 Picasso 1.6 HDi 16V VTR+ £10,495
5dr [5 Seat] EGS Diesel Estate, 19,604 miles

CITROËN NEW C4 PICASSO

(13) 2013 Citroën New C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 £19,995
Airdream Exclusive 5dr Diesel Estate, 3,500 miles

CITROËN C4 GRAND PICASSO

(10) 2010 Citroën C4 Grand Picasso 1.6 HDi 16V VTR+ £9,495
5dr Diesel Estate, 23,050 miles

(10) 2010 Citroën C4 Grand Picasso 1.6 HDi 16V VTR+ £9,995
5dr EGS Diesel Estate, 16,065 miles

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(58) 2008 Citroën C5 2.0 HDi 16V £8,995
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(12) 2012 Citroën C5 1.6 HDi 16V VTR+ £13,495
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CITROËN DS3

(60) 2010 Citroën Ds3 1.6 HDi 16V DStyle £10,495
3dr Diesel Hatch, 32,145 miles

(61) 2011 Citroën Ds3 1.6 e-HDi DStyle+ £10,995
Airdream 3dr Diesel Hatch, 28,676 miles

(13) 2013 Citroën Ds3 1.6 e-HDi DStyle+ £13,495
Airdream 3dr Diesel Hatch, 3,500 miles

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(63) 2013 Citroën Ds3 Cabrio 1.6 VTi DStyle £12,995
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(61) 2011 Citroën Ds4 1.6 HDi DStyle £12,995
5dr Diesel Hatch, 17,000 miles

CITROËN DS5

(13) 2013 Citroën Ds5 2.0 HDi DSport £19,995
5dr Auto Diesel Hatch, 10,490 miles

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(60) 2010 Citroën Berlingo Multispace 1.6 HDi VTR £6,995
5dr Diesel Hatch, 43,900 miles

(60) 2010 Citroën Berlingo Multispace 1.6 HDi 90 VTR £7,495
5dr Diesel Hatch, 51,862 miles

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(13) 2013 Citroën Nemo 1.3 HDi £7,495
Enterprise [non Start/Stop] Diesel, 6,500 miles +VAT

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(59) 2009 Citroën Dispatch 1000 1.6 HDi £7,995
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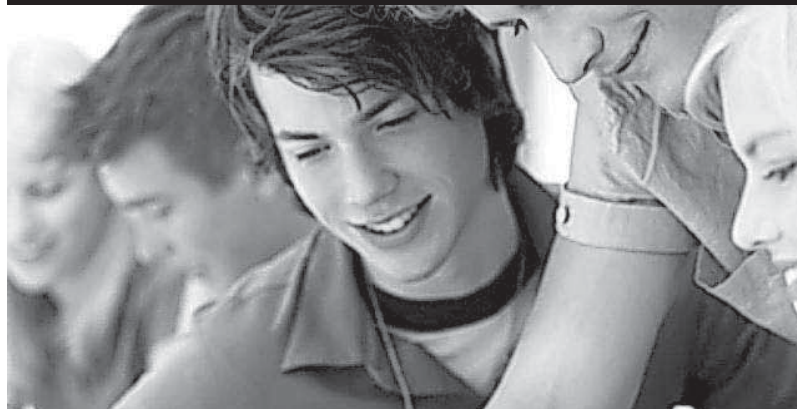
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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2012/13



NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF AUDIT

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that under Regulation 11 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 the District Auditor has completed the audit of the above accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013.

An unqualified opinion and the audit certificate on the accounts were issued by the External Auditor on the 26th September 2013. On the same date, the External Auditor issued an unqualified conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing value for money as required by the Audit Commission's Code of Practice. The Auditor has not identified any issues of public interest to report under Section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998.

In accordance with Section 14 of the 1998 Act, any local government elector for the area may:

- Inspect and make copies of the Statement of Accounts.
- Ask the Authority for a copy of the Statement of Accounts.

The Statement of Accounts is available for inspection by any local government elector for the area at Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL, on weekdays (excluding public holidays) between 9.00am and 5.00pm.

The accounts can also be found at: <http://www.ashford.gov.uk/budgeting-accounts>



Notice of coming into force of public path diversion order Section 257 Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The District Of Shepway (HE202 (part) Mill Lane Hawkinge) Public Path Diversion Order 1999

In accordance with section 257 and paragraph 8 of schedule 14 of the above Act, notice is hereby given that on 15 October 2013 certification was given that the alternative right of way required under the terms of the above Order has been created to the District Council's reasonable satisfaction, thereby enabling the Order to come into force.

Dated: 19th October 2013

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PLANNING

Planning applications



Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/13/01128/FUL: Land rear of 43 to 47 Chapel Lane, Blean. Erection of one four-bedroom dwelling with garage and one self-contained, one-bedroom annexe and new vehicular access. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs C Swaffer** Reason: Contrary to the development plan.
CA/13/01750/FUL: Land to the east of Swanton Lane, Littlebourne. Installation of ground-based photovoltaic solar farm (total site area 22.14 hectares), estimated output of 14.96 megawatts, and associated infrastructure including 11 inverter/transformer equipment cabinets, two onsite substations, grid connection and associated works. **Applicant: Sunsave 18 (Littlebourne) Limited** Reason: Contrary to development plan and major.
CA/13/01771/FUL: Land at Bakers Lane, Chartham. Erection of 26 residential properties including associated access, bin and cycle storage, parking, landscaping and servicing. **Applicant: Sammi Developments Ltd, Hyde Housing and Jenner** Reason: Major development.
CA/13/01789/FUL: 20 Clifton Road, Whitstable, CT5 1DQ. Erection of replacement two-storey and single-storey extension to rear, outbuilding to rear garden and replacement of boundary wall with railings to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Grady** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/01810/FUL: 4 Kings Mews, St John's Place, Canterbury, CT1 1RB. Installation of wrought iron front gate. **Applicant: Ms Laura Young** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/01863/FUL: 68 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3DF. Demolition of existing dwelling and garage and construction of six residential properties with associated parking. **Applicant: Pavilion Property Group** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/01869/FUL: 34 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EP. Demolition of two-storey rear extension and erection of replacement two and a half storey extension incorporating accommodation in roofspace. **Applicant: Mrs M J Nearn** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/01871/FUL: 61 London Road, Canterbury, CT2 8JZ. Proposed roof extension. **Applicant: Mr P Roberts and S Waitt** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/01872/FUL: 24 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AY. Use of the highway to place nine tables and 18 chairs in association with adjacent restaurant. **Applicant: Ask Restaurants** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/01876/FUL: 19 South Canterbury Road, Canterbury, CT1 3LH. Proposed demolition of existing two-storey dwelling, to be replaced with two semi-detached family dwellings. **Applicant: Mr F Vadean** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/01884/FUL: 19 The Gap, Canterbury, CT1 3NJ. Proposed two-storey extension to provide garage and additional bedroom to first floor. **Applicant: Mr Rogers** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/01887/FUL: 74 Cromwell Road, Whitstable, CT5 1NN. Single-storey rear glass room/veranda. **Applicant: Mr O'Neill** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/01891/FUL: 10 Orchard Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AP. Proposed rear extension incorporating an open glazed veranda. **Applicant: Ms A Slidders** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/01892/FUL: 21-23 High Street, Whitstable. Roof terrace, extension of lift shaft, additional opening to flank elevation and revisions to design of penthouse flat approved under planning application CA/02/00161/FUL. **Applicant: Rossetti Limited** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/01895/LB: 10 Orchard Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AP. Proposed rear extension incorporating an open glazed veranda. **Applicant: Ms A Slidders** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/13/01903/FUL: 27 Orchard Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AP. Proposed single-storey extension to the rear. **Applicant: Mr Pragnell** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be submitted via public access on the planning pages of the website www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc to arrive on or before Monday 11 November 2013.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 18 October 2013

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/02838/HOUSE Hartley Oasts Hawkhurst Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Extension and alterations to garage (LB)
13/02903/HOUSE Bank House High Street, Goudhurst
- Replacement rear fence, enlargement of rear access to parking area, replacement of timber sheds with one new timber shed (LB) (CA)
13/02927/FULL Old School House Beresford Road, Goudhurst
- Demolition of outbuildings and construction of dwelling (CA)
13/02828/FULMJ Land To West Of Lorenden, Hawkhurst
- Residential development comprising 62 dwellings, access, parking, garages and car barns, hard and soft landscaping (MAJOR)
13/02909/HOUSE Heath Stores Grocers The Heath Stores, Horsmonden
- Demolition of rear porch. Single storey rear extension (LB) (CA)
13/02919/LBC Heath Stores Grocers The Heath Stores, Horsmonden
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of rear porch. Single storey rear extension (LB)
13/02883/FULMC Blockbuster Express 86 Calverley Road, Park
- Proposed rear extension to provide storage area and disabled WC. Alterations to shop front (CA)
13/02885/OUT Land West Of Knights Way, Sherwood
- Outline supported by a EIA-(details of means of access) to provide a Primary School, up to 550 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), up to 700sq m GEA of non-residential floorspace (Use Classes A1, A2, A3, A5, B1, D1 and / or D2), and associated works including access; internal road network and associated highway works; re-profiling of site levels; landscaping and selective tree removal; informal and formal open space; pedestrian, cyclist and public transport infrastructure; utilities and drainage infrastructure; car and cycle parking; waste storage; and works to existing woodland (MAJOR) (EIA) (DEVPLN)
(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA)
Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST)
Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 19 October 2013



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/1021/SH - Encombe Lodge Sandgate Esplanade Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Erection of a two storey extension to the eastern elevation following demolition of the existing single storey extension, creation of a first floor balcony in the southern elevation, works to form a single storey garage to the northern elevation and a terrace to the eastern elevation, together with other external alterations

Y13/0940/SH+* - Connaught Lodge Stone Street Westenanger Hythe Kent - Outline application for the erection of a dwelling following the demolition of the existing building

Y13/0844/SH - 1 Grace Hill Folkestone Kent CT20 1HA - Change of use and conversion of first, second and third floors to three self contained flats together with external alterations and demolition of walls

Y13/1045/SH - Bybrook House The Undercliff Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Felling of a Weeping Willow tree subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 3 of 1973

Y13/0971/SH - 44 Sandgate High Street Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3AP - Listed building consent for internal alterations in connection with the proposed change of use of part ground and part first floors to a self-contained flat.

Y13/0972/SH - 44 Sandgate High Street Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3AP - Change of use of part ground and part first floors to form a self-contained flat.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Act

Notice of Applications

MA/13/0323/N - 2, WEAVERING MANOR, WEAVERING STREET, WEAVERING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5JJ - An application for Listed building consent for conversion of existing first floor en-suite w.c. to shower room and installation of new w.c. at first floor level, removal of existing timber balustrade to mezzanine level and replacement with glazed screen, removal of existing stairs to mezzanine and installation of a new spiral staircase, installation of a new bespoke timber door to roof void to fit existing arched opening under brace, laying of new timber floor boards in roof void/storage area and installation of three conservation roof lights to south elevation. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1456/S - GREAT PAGEHURST FARM, PAGEHURST ROAD, STAPLEHURST, MAIDSTONE, KENT, TN12 0JD - Ground based photovoltaic solar farm, access, associated works and grid connection. **Reason: 6, 9**

MA/13/1582/N - CEMETERY LODGE, SUTTON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9AF - Change of use of building to provide a 3 bedroom dwelling. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1643/N - MOTE HOUSE, MOTE PARK, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8NQ - Planning application for alterations including creation of one apartment within Old Kitchens, refurbishment of lower vault of the Old Kitchen Block for use as an activity space, buttress wall required at rear of Old Kitchen Block including new timber screen to shield bats, new access steps and associated retaining wall added to form safe access to the ice house, revised plan arrangement to reception and treatment room areas at upper basement level, revised main entrance and approach to Old Kitchen Block apartment at ground floor level, amendment to new opening between old and new areas of the dairy apartment, revised stair arrangement to lower vault including increased headroom at foot of stair, installation of new external platform lift at rear of Old Kitchen Block within the light well, revised siting of new opening between old and new areas of the northern stables, raising of existing first floor window head at southern end of stables to form dormer, revised siting of south eastern stairs in Brewery Block, additional supports within Brewery Block vault to support new floors above, access to undercroft of apartment 15 for use as cycle store. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1644/N - MOTE HOUSE, MOTE PARK, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8NQ - Listed building consent is sought for alterations including creation of one apartment within Old Kitchens, refurbishment of lower vault of the Old Kitchen Block for use as an activity space, buttress wall required at rear of Old Kitchen Block including new timber screen to shield bats, new access steps and associated retaining wall added to form safe access to the ice house, revised plan arrangement to reception and treatment room areas at upper basement level, revised main entrance and approach to Old Kitchen Block apartment at ground floor level, amendment to new opening between old and new areas of the dairy apartment, revised stair arrangement to lower vault including increased headroom at foot of stair, installation of new external platform lift at rear of Old Kitchen Block within the light well, revised siting of new opening between old and new areas of the northern stables, raising of existing first floor window head at southern end of stables to form dormer, revised siting of south eastern stairs in Brewery Block, additional supports within Brewery Block vault to support new floors above, access to undercroft of apartment 15 for use as cycle store. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1657/S - LAND REAR OF THE PRIDE OF KENT, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, KENT, TN12 0AH - Erection of 3 dwellings. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/1663/N - CEMETERY LODGE, SUTTON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9AF - Internal and external alterations to facilitate the use of the building as a dwelling. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1664/S - 17, THE PARADE, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0LA - Retrospective application for the erection of a single storey rear extension to provide additional secure storage. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/1673/N - 32, UNION STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1ED - An application for listed building consent for a section of new flooring and retractable ceiling. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1696/S - THE COTTAGE EAST, CHURCH STREET, TESTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 5AJ - Erection of a replacement garage. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/1707/S - LAND WEST OF, BURIAL GROUND LANE, TOVIL, KENT - The development of 27 houses together with raising of land levels, new access and access road, parking, car barns and associated landscaping and footpath links - amendments to previously approved scheme (MA/12/0980) being amended house types and parking layout. **Reason: 9**

MA/13/1709/S - CHILD AND ADOLESCENT SERVICES, GATLAND HOUSE, GATLAND LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8PF - Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 14(no) dwellings with access, parking, garaging and associated works. **Reason: 6**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.
- 9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **3rd November 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 20th October 2013



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS

CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00576

Erection of single storey extensions and conservatories to both sides, rear extension, installation of rear and side external stairs and balcony (existing extensions and outbuildings to be demolished)
Royal Oak Ph, New Dover Road, Capel-le-Ferne, Dover, CT18 7HY **ARW**

DOV/13/00803

Change of use and conversion of outbuilding to a micropub (Use Class A4)
Birchfield, Barrestone, Eythorne, Dover, CT15 7JG **ARW**

DOV/13/00705

Construction of access ramp
Dover Marina Hotel, Waterloo Crescent, Dover, CT17 9BP **LCN**

DOV/13/00818

Erection of a shed (existing shed to be demolished)
Easry Bowling Club, Church Street, Easry, Sandwich, CT13 0HL **CON**

DOV/13/00821

Alterations to existing chimney breast
13 Athol Terrace, Dover, CT16 1LT **LCN**

DOV/13/00824

Erection of a rear conservatory extension
2 Florinda Cottages, High Street, St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Dover, CT15 6AT0824 **CON**

DOV/13/00826

Section 73 Application for the Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission DOV/12/00687 in respect of approved plans and documents
Duke Of Yorks Royal Military School, Deal Road, Guston, Dover, CT15 5EQ **MSLB**

DOV/13/00540

Installation of rear rooflight and internal alterations
3 Wilkinson Drive, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7DR **LCN**

DOV/13/00550

Installation of rear rooflight
3 Wilkinson Drive, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7DR **LCN**

Reason for Advert Codes:-

CON - Within Conservation Area

MSLB - Major development and affects the setting of a Listed Building

LCN - Listed Building in a Conservation Area **ARW** - Affects a Public Right of Way

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent within 21 days marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.



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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 04 NOVEMBER 2013

SW/13/1062:
To replace old alloy windows with upvc to front bays, and adding fan light windows to upper floor-3 Preston Grove, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1162 & SW/13/1166:
Change of use of first and second floor to self-contained flat and formation of new dedicated access doorway within existing shopfront-4 Broadway, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/1199:
Approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) on planning permission SW/12/1425-Land off Ridham Avenue, Kemsley, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

SW/13/1202:
Proposed development of solar photovoltaic panels and associated works including inverter housings, access tracks, security fencing and cameras-Land adj South Lees Farm, Lower Road, MINSTER; **REASON 3**

SW/13/1217:
Replacement of existing ground floor bay window and two first floor windows to front with UPVC sliding sash windows-12 Fielding Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1218 & SW/13/1249:
Demolition of existing porch and erection of a new enlarged porch-Bush House, Gore Road, BREDGAR; **REASON 2**

SW/13/1219:
Conversion of buildings from use class C2 (Residential institution) to residence use class C3 (a) (Dwelling houses) for use as a single residential dwelling-Monastery of Sorrowful & Immaculate Heart of Mary, Warden Road, EASTCHURCH; **REASONS 2 & 4**

SW/13/1221:
Erection of a permanent dwelling for an agricultural worker-Holly Hill Farm, Dawes Road, DUNKIRK; **REASON 4**

SW/13/1223 & SW/13/1224:
Internal and external alterations including insertion of three dormer windows-Stray Orchard Cottage, Sheerness Road, LOWER HALSTOW; **REASONS 1, 2 & 4**

SW/13/1247:
Variation of Condition 5 of planning permission SW/11/0159-to allow modifications to the design of the petrol filling station-Morrisons (Petrol Station), Mill Way, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 24 OF DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Proposed development at **Joyce Green Farm, Joyce Green Lane, Dartford, Kent**

I give notice that on 7 October 2013 Kent County Council granted planning permission to vary and remove conditions within planning permission DA/00/326 (primarily to extend the end date and allow the completion of sand and gravel extraction and restoration) at Joyce Green Farm, Joyce Green Lane, Dartford, Kent (Planning reference: DA/13/206).

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, the environmental statement and the planning permission at **Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR** or at the offices of the **Planning Applications Group, Planning & Environment Division, Enterprise & Environment Directorate, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX**. Alternatively, the details can be viewed on the **County Council's website** at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications using application reference number **DA/13/206**.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 20 October 2013



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HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

**B2067 BONNINGTON ROAD, BILSINGTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow telegraph pole replacement works to be safely carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of B2067 Bonnington Road, Bilsington.

Bonnington Road will be closed in the vicinity of Gorsedown Farm, with no through access between Priory Road and Frogmore Lane.

The closure is planned for Tuesday 5 November 2013 for 1 day, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours.

The alternative route is via B2067 Bonnington Road, Ashford Road, Frith Road, Goldwell Lane, Forge Hill, New Road Hill, Boat Lane and Bonnington Road.

**B2080 READING STREET AND EBONY ROAD, TENTERDEN
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of junction modification works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on B2080 Reading Street and Ebony Road, Tenterden, as shown below.

EBONY ROAD, TENTERDEN will be closed from Monday 4 November 2013 for up to 5 days.

The closure is in the vicinity of the junction with Reading Street.

Access remains from Lower Road up to the point of closure, but no through access.

The alternative through route is via Ebony Road, Lower Road, Appledore Road, Ferry Road, B2080 Tenterden Road and Reading Street

B2080 READING STREET planned to be closed on Wednesday 6 November 2013 between 09:00 hours and 15:30 hours.

This closure is subject to weather conditions, and may be delayed in the event of wet or very cold weather.

The closure is either side of the junction with Ebony Road, with access from either direction up to where the road is closed

The alternative route is via Appledore Road, B2067 Woodchurch Road, Brook Street, Kenardington Road, Warehorne Road, The Street, Marsh Road, Ashford Road, A2070 Ashford Road to Brenzett Corner Roundabout, B2080 Rhee Wall Road, Station Road, The Street, Tenterden Road and Reading Street

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

**KING STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER OCTOBER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of King Street, Canterbury.

King Street, Canterbury will be closed between the junctions with St Alphege Street and Knotts Lane.

The closure is planned to commence from 4 November 2013 for up to 3 days.

Due to the nature of the works, the road will need to remain closed at all times during the closure period.

The alternative routes are

Southbound via Palace Street and Orange Street

Northbound via Orange Street, Palace Street, The Borough, St Radigund's Street and Knotts Lane

**ST DUNSTAN'S TERRACE, CANTERBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To enable repairs to underground phone cables to restore customer service, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of St Dunstan's Terrace, Canterbury.

St Dunstan's Terrace will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with London Road.

Closures are planned to commence from 24 October 2013 for up to 3 weeks, weekdays only, between 08:30 hours and 17:30 hours each day.

The alternative route is via London Road, New Street and Orchard Street.

**THE STREET, BISHOPSBOURNE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to re-line a sewer, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on The Street, Bishopsbourne.

The Street will be closed between junctions of Frog Lane

and Park Lane.

The works commence from 4 November 2013 for up to 2 weeks. The Street will be closed for 2-3 days within this overall period, with the dates notified in advance to local residents.

The road will be re-opened outside working hours, and every effort will be made to maintain as much access as possible for residents when the road is closed.

The alternative route is via Frog Lane, Bonny Bush Hill and Rose Lane.

HIGHWAYS – DARTFORD AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

**(VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD)
(PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING)
(CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 15) ORDER 2013**

NOTICE is hereby given that THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under Sections 1, 2, 4 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act of 1984:

The effect of the Order would be to:

Introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) restrictions on the following roads or lengths of road in Dartford:

MAIN ROAD (B260), LONGFIELD HILL

On the southern side of Main Road 10 metres from the junction with Manor Road in a north westerly direction to a point 12 metres east of the junction with Nursted Lane.

Full details are contained in the draft Orders which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders, may be examined between 8.30am and 5pm on Mondays to Fridays at Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR and at Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ.

Any person wishing to support or object to the making of the Order should do so in writing by 12pm on 12th November 2013 to Paul Thrower Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD, or by email to paul.thrower@kent.gov.uk.

John Burr, Director of Highways & Transportation Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

**CHERRY LANE, GREAT MONGEHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Cherry Lane, Great Mongeham, Deal.

Cherry Lane will be closed in phases starting from the junction with Mongeham Road working westwards to the junction with Northbourne Road.

The closure is planned to commence from Monday 21 October 2013 for up to 10 weeks, with an estimated completion date of 23 December 2013.

Access will remain from either direction up to where the road is closed.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Mongeham Road and Northbourne Road.

**FORGE LANE, SUTTON, DOVER
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to install a kerblin, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Forge Lane, Sutton, Dover.

Forge Lane will be closed between the junction with Church Hill and the Pumping Station.

The closure is planned to commence from 21 October 2013 for up to 3 days. Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside normal working hours.

The alternative route is via Vale Road, Wingleton Lane, Winkland Oaks Road and Waterworks Hill.

**NORTHWALL ROAD, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to analyse the road composition and depth of services in anticipation of future

reconstruction, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Northwall Road, Deal.

Northwall Road will be closed in phases between the junctions with Golf Road and Friends Close.

The closure is planned for 29 October 2013 for up to 1 day within the hours of 07:00 hours and 17:00 hours whilst the machinery is actually in use.

The road will otherwise remain open when it is safe to allow this, and every effort will be made to maintain as much access as possible.

There is no alternative route as the road is a *cul-de-sac*.

**OAK STREET, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Oak Street, Deal.

Oak Street, Deal will be closed for its entire length.

The closure is planned to commence from 21 October 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via High Street, King Street and Middle Street.

Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside normal working hours.

**PALM TREE LANE, AYLESHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to install new gullies and a soakaway to resolve flooding to nearby properties, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Palm Tree Lane, Aylesham.

Palm Tree Lane will be closed in the vicinity of Listways Cottages, to the west of the junction with Old Court Hill, with no through access between Chapmans Hill and Old Court Hill.

The closure is planned to commence from 4 November 2013 for up to 2 weeks, or until the works have been completed.

Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

The alternative route is via Old Court Hill, Church Street, Chapmans Hill and Palm Tree Lane.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

**(PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURN) (RUSSELL STREET,
DOVER) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2014**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order introduces a prohibition of right turns from Russell Street, Dover onto the A20 Townwall Street Dover.

This Order was made on 17 October 2013 and will come into force on 21 October 2013.

Full details are contained in the Order which together with the relevant plans and a statement for the Councils reasons for making the Order may be examined at the offices of the Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD and at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make an application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

**CHART HILL ROAD, STAPLEHURST
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because it is necessary for maintenance works to be

carried out to Hertsfield Bridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chart Hill Road, Staplehurst, on or after 8 November 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A229 Staplehurst Road to Lower Farm Road.

The alternative route is via A229 Staplehurst Road/ Linton Hill, B2163 Heath Road/Plough Wents Road.

**THE GREEN, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of BT Openreach fibre cabling, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Green, Boughton Monchelsea, on or after 23 October 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Church Street to Haste Hill Road.

The alternative route is via The Green.

**LOWER HIGH STREET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower High Street, on or after 4th November 2013 for up to 3 days (from 1am) or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Pudding Lane to Fairmeadow the junction of Mill Street.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Earl Street, Pudding lane, High Street..

**STEPS HILL ROAD, STOCKBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because it is necessary to install a new water main, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Steps Hill Road, Stockbury, on or after 21 October 2013 for up to 23 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Chalky Road and A249 Sittingbourne Road.

The diversion is via Chalky Road and A249 Sittingbourne Road.

**B2010 TOVIL ROAD, TOVIL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2010 Tovil Road, Tovil, on or after 25 October 2013 for up to 1 night between 20.00hrs and 06.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junctions with Forest Hill and Eccleston Road.

The alternative route is via Old Tovil Road, A229 Loose Road/Linton Road, B2163 Heath Road, Dean Street, B2010 Dean Street/Farleigh Hill/Tovil Hill.

**WEST STREET, HARRIETSHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of highway improvement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on West Street, Harrietsham, on or after 4 November 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A20 Ashford Road to Hook Lane.

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road and Hook Lane.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 0300 333 5539 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA

**CASTLE HILL, HARTLEY, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a new gas service to be installed, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Castle Hill, Hartley, Sevenoaks, on or after 21st October 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Talbot Lodge and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Fawkham Road, B260, Hartley Road.

**CRAMPTONS ROAD, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a new mains connection and installation of a valve on an existing connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cramptons Road, Sevenoaks, on or after 21st October 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Otford Road and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Cramptons Road, Otford Road.

**KNATTS VALLEY ROAD, WEST KINGSDOWN
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of allowing BT safe access to an overhead network for cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Knatts Valley Road, West Kingsdown, on or after 21st October 2013 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Knatts Lane in a south westerly direction to outside Bush Farm and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Knatts Lane, Tinkerpot Lane, Hills Lane, Knatts Valley Road.

**A20 LONDON ROAD, FARNINGHAM, SEVENOAKS
(TEMPORARY SPEED LIMIT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

For the safety of the public and workforce during BT works to access a manhole for cabling repair works a temporary mandatory speed limit of 10 miles per hour should be imposed at the roundabout from the junction with Dartford Road and London Road for a distance of 275 metres.

The Speed Limit will be in place for 2 nights commencing on the 6th November 2013 from the hours of 22:00-06:00hrs.

**LOWER GREEN ROAD, LEIGH, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of detailed railway bridge examination works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower Green Road, Leigh, Sevenoaks, on or after 22nd October 2013 for up to 1 night from 22:00pm until 23rd October 06:00am.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Ensfield Road, Haysden Lane, B2176 Penshurst Road, A26 London Road, A26 Quarry Hill Road, B2260 High Street Tonbridge, A227 Shipbourne Road, B245 London Road, Hildenborough, Leigh Road, Stocks Green Road, Rings Hill, B2027 Hildenborough Road, High Street, Lower Green Road and vice versa.

**MUSSENDEN LANE, SOUTH DARENTH AND HORTON
AND KIRBY, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of laying a new BT ductline and upgrading existing duct and cables, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mussenden Lane, South Darenth and Horton and Kirby, Sevenoaks, on or after 26th October 2013 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Speedgate and Rays Hill and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Three Gates Road, Scratchers Lane, Main Road Gorse Hill A20, Dartford Road A225, Horton Road.

**VARIOUS ROADS, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991 (SPECIAL
EVENTS) ACT 1994 SECTION 16A**

Because of Sevenoaks Round Table Fireworks Festival and Torchlight Procession, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Sevenoaks, on or after 9th November 2013 for up to 1 day as per Schedule 1.

SCHEDULE 1

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Road Name: | High Street, Sevenoaks |
| Extent: | from Pembroke Road to London Road – 16:30-20:30hrs |
| Diversion: | Pembroke Road, A224 London Road, A25 Westerham Road, A21 Southbound, A225 Riverhill/Tonbridge Road. |
| Road Name: | London Road, Sevenoaks |
| Extent: | from South Park to High Street - 18:45-19:45hrs |
| Diversion: | A224 London Road, A25 Westerham Road, A21 Southbound, A225 Riverhill/Tonbridge Road. |
| Road Name: | High Street/Tonbridge Road, Sevenoaks |
| Extent: | from London Road, Tonbridge Road (south of Dukes Meadow Entrance to Sevenoaks School) – 18:45-19:45hrs |
| Diversion: | A225 Tonbridge Road/Riverhill, A21 London bound A25 Westerham Road, A224 London Road |
| Road Name: | Rockdale Road, Sevenoaks |
| Extent: | at the junction of High Street – 18:45-19:45hrs |
| Diversion: | n/a |
| Road Name: | Oak Lane, Sevenoaks |
| Extent: | at the junction of Tonbridge Road – 18:45-19:45hrs |
| Diversion: | n/a |
| Road Name: | Solefields Road, Sevenoaks |
| Extent: | at the junction of Tonbridge Road 18:45-19:45hrs |
| Diversion: | n/a |

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA

**STONE HILL, SELLINDGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of telegraph pole replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Stone Hill, Sellindge.

Stone Hill will be closed between the junctions with Hythe Road and Coopers Lane.

The closure is planned to commence from 24 October 2013 for up to 1 day, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours.

The alternative route is via A20 Hythe Road, Church Road, Woolpack Hill and Plain Road.

HIGHWAYS – SWALE AREA

**BELL ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to remove unsafe trees in the footway, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on sections of Bell Road, Sittingbourne.

Bell Road, Sittingbourne will be closed in phases, as shown below.

Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 October

Bell Road closed between the junctions with High Street and Avenue of Remembrance

The alternative route is via Avenue of Remembrance, Park Road, West Street, St Michael's Road and Crown Quay Lane

Saturday 2 November

Bell Road closed between the junctions with Stanhope Avenue and Highsted Road

The alternative route is via Avenue of Remembrance, Park Road and Gore Court Road

Sunday 3 November

Bell Road closed between the junctions with Highsted Road and Brenchley Road

The alternative route is via Highsted Road and Brenchley Road

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(EVEAS DRIVE, SITTINGBOURNE)**

(PROHIBITION OF ENTRY) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made an Order under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 124 and Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to prohibit vehicles from using Evas Drive, Sittingbourne, between its junctions with Oaks Road and Freeman Drive, with certain exemptions for local buses and restricted classes of other vehicles.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on 25/10/2013, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned, may be examined during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Order or of any provision contained within, on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

**HIGH STREET, MARINE TOWN, SHEERNESS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of drainage repairs to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of High Street, Marine Town, Sheerness.

High Street will be closed between the junctions with Millennium Way and Broadway (Clock Tower).

The closure is planned to commence from Sunday 27 October 2013 for up to 8 days. Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

The alternative through route is via A250 Millennium Way, Trinity Road and Broadway.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Broadway will be reversed between the junctions with Trinity Place and High Street, so that traffic travels westwards towards High Street.

Waiting will be prohibited on High Street, between Millennium Way and Broadway, from 01:00 hours on 27 October 2013 until the works have been completed.

**PROVENDER LANE, NORTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow telegraph pole replacement works to be safely carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Provender Lane, Norton.

Provender Lane will be closed from the junction with Russett Lane north eastwards to the vicinity of Westfield Cottage.

Closures are planned to commence from Wednesday 6 November 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

The alternative route is via Norton Road, A2 London Road and Provender Lane.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS,
THE BOROUGH OF SWALE) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH,
50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)
AMENDMENT NO.4 ORDER 2013**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to reduce the speed limit in Grovehurst Road, Sittingbourne, from 40mph to 30mph.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on 25/10/2013, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that

there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF SWALE)
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES)
(AMENDMENT NO. 6) ORDER 2013**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to introduce new waiting restrictions in the following roads: High Street, Eastchurch; Rose Street, Sheerness; Granville Road, Sheerness; Upton Lane, Sittingbourne.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on 25/10/2013, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned, may be examined during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Order or of any provision contained within, on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

**CANTERBURY ROAD WEST, CLIFFSEND
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to install traffic calming measures, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Canterbury Road West, Cliffsend, Ramsgate.

Canterbury Road West will be closed between Cliffsend Roundabout and the entrance to Jentex.

The closure is planned to commence from Saturday 26 October 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside normal working hours.

The alternative route is via A299 Hengist Way, Lord of the Manor Roundabouts and Canterbury Road West.

**DOWNS ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of urgent sewer repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Downs Road, Ramsgate.

Downs Road will be closed in phases between junctions with Goodwin Road and Chilton Lane. Access will remain from either direction up to where the road is closed, but there will be no through access.

The closure is planned to commence from 28 October 2013 for up to 9 weeks, with an estimated completion date of 23 December 2013.

Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

The alternative through route is via Chilton Lane, B2054 London Road and Goodwin Road.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF THANET)
(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND
DERESTRICTED ROADS)
AMENDMENT NO. 3 ORDER 2013**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL MAKES AN ORDER UNDER SECTIONS 81, 82, 83 AND 84 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, THE EFFECT OF WHICH IS TO :-

Extend the existing 30mph speed limit on Park Lane for an additional 31m to a point 42m south of the junction with Quex Park access road.

A copy of the Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of

**For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 0300 333 5539 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways**



HIGHWAYS

the Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

The order will be made on 17 October 2013 and will come into operation on 21 October 2013.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of the regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make an application to the High Court for this purpose.

VARIOUS ROADS, KINGSGATE, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on various roads in Kingsgate, Broadstairs.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

WHITENESS ROAD & KINGSGATE BAY ROAD closed for their entire length

21 October 2013 for up to 2 days

Alternative route via George Hill Road and Convent Road

Access will be maintained to Woodland Way and Holland Close, as signed on site.

JOSS GAP ROAD then closed once the above roads have been re-opened

22 October 2013 for up to 1 day,

Alternative route via Elmwood Avenue, Callis Court Road, Grange Road, Beacon Road and Convent Road
Closures are between 07:30 hours and 16:30 hours each day with roads re-opened outside these times.

VARIOUS ROADS, RAMSGATE & BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER OCTOBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on various roads in Ramsgate and Broadstairs, planned to commence from 4 November 2013.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

HERESON ROAD, RAMSGATE – closed at the junction with Boundary Road/Victoria Road.

4 & 5 November 2013 – 19:00 hours through to 02:00 hours each night

Alternative route via Montefiore Avenue, Dumpton Park Road, Thanet Road, Victoria Parade and B2054 Victoria Road

KING STREET, RAMSGATE – closed at the junction with Boundary Road/Victoria Road.

4 & 5 November 2013 – 19:00 hours through to 02:00 hours each night

Alternative route via Plains of Waterloo, B2054 Wellington Crescent, Victoria Parade and Victoria Road

FAIRFIELD ROAD, BROADSTAIRS – closed at the junction with Rumfields Road/Bromstone Road.

11 November 2013 – 19:30 hours through to 02:00 hours

Alternative route via Fairfield Road, A255 Broadstairs Road, A256 Westwood Road and Rumfields Road

PYSONS ROAD, BROADSTAIRS – closed at the junction with Rumfields Road/Bromstone Road.

12 November 2013 – 19:30 hours through to 02:00 hours

Alternative route via Pysons Road, A254 Margate Road, Northwood Road, A256 Westwood Road and Rumfields Road

HIGHWAYS – TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

A229 BLUE BELL HILL, AYLESFORD/BOXLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway maintenance works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic travelling at any greater speed than 30mph on A229 Blue Bell Hill, Aylesford/Boxley, on or after 4 November 2013 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The restriction will be in force from the existing 50mph speed limit 30m Maidstone side of Cobtree Manor Park entrance to the Lord Lees Roundabout.

MOTE ROAD, IGHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of improvements to the drainage system, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mote Road, Igham, on or after 4 November 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed 50m north of Stone Cottage.

The alternative route is via High Cross Road, A227 Igham Road/Stumble Hill and Hildenborough Road.

PILGRIMS WAY, AYLESFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council has made an Order for a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 miles an hour on Pilgrims Way, Aylesford on or after 21 October 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The restriction will be in force from the start/end of the dual carriageway to the junction of Bull Lane.

HIGHWAYS – TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

A229 HIGHGATE HILL, HAWKHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A229 Highgate Hill, Hawkhurst, on or after 23 October 2013 for up to 6 nights between 19:00hrs and 07:00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A268 High Street to A229 The Moor.

The alternative route is via A268 High Street/Hawkhurst Road, A21 London Road, A229 Merriments Lane/Horns Hill/Horns Road.

LOWER GREEN ROAD, SPELDHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works on high and low voltage electric cables, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower Green Road, Speldhurst, on or after 4 November 2013 for up to 14 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Harwarton Lodge.

The alternative route is via Broomhill Road, Speldhurst Hill and Etherington Hill.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 20th October 2013

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 0300 333 5539 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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PROW - IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CC17 IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY****PUBLIC FOOTPATH CC17
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath CC17, between Broad Oak Road and Kemsing Gardens from the 5th November 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before January 2014.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Kemsing Gardens, Headcorn Drive and Farleigh Road and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams
Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB487 IN THE PARISH OF CHARTHAM**PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB487
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath CB487, between its junction with Ashford Road and its junction with Public Footpath CB463A from the 7th November 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before January 2014.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams
Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH597 IN THE PARISH OF HEADCORN****PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH597
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath KH597, between its junction with KH599 and its junction with KH600 from the 4th November 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before January 2014.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on the level crossing and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Katie Cullen
Contact Centre no. 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE**NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY****COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)****APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND KNOWN AS THE CRICKET FIELD AT MARDEN AS A NEW VILLAGE GREEN**

Notice is hereby given that an Inspector has been appointed by the Kent County Council to hold a Public Inquiry into the above application and will attend at: Marden Cricket and Hockey Club, Day's Sports Field, Albion Road, Marden, Kent

On Monday 11th November 2013 at 10.00am

To hold a public local inquiry into the application

A copy of the Inspector's directions setting out the procedure to be followed for the submission of evidence and the format that the Public Inquiry will take is available on the County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/villagegreens.

For further enquiries, please contact Melanie McNeir on 01622 221628

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR228 IN THE PARISH OF WROTHAM****PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR228
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath MR228, between its junction with Kemsing Road and NGR TQ588 587 from the 4th November 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because house demolition works will be carried out adjacent to it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is around an adjacent field and will be clearly signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Michele Snoding
Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980****WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL****(PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR371 (PART) WESTERHAM)****PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT****MODIFICATION ORDER 2013**

On 26th September 2013 The Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of that Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered SR371 which commences from NGR TQ 4332 5036 (Point A) and runs in a southerly direction for a distance of 83 metres to its connection with Dairy Lane at NR TQ 4335 5028 (Point B) and to provide a new length of public footpath numbered SR371, with a width of 2 metres, which commences from NGR TQ 4332 5036 (Point A), as indicated on the Order plan and runs in a south easterly direction for a distance of 87 metres to NGR TQ 4339 5030 (Point C), thence in a southerly direction for 40 metres to a new connection with Dairy Lane at NGR TQ 4338 50 26 (Point D).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent. TN13 1HG or at the Kent

County Council, Public Rights of Way & Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there at the price of £5.

The Order comes into force on 26th September 2013, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 20th October 2013, make an application to the High Court.

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE DISTRICT OF THANET**NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY****COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)****APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND AT URSULINE DRIVE AT WESTGATE AS A NEW VILLAGE GREEN**

Notice is hereby given that an Inspector has been appointed by the Kent County Council to hold a Public Inquiry into the above application and will attend at:

The Function Room at The Swan, 75 Sea Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, CT8 8QG

On Monday 18th November 2013 at 10.00am

To hold a public local inquiry into the application

A copy of the Inspector's directions setting out the procedure to be followed for the submission of evidence and the format that the Public Inquiry will take is available on the County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/villagegreens.

For further enquiries, please contact Melanie McNeir on 01622 221628

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 20th October 2013

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
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Taylor prepares to steady

As one recently-crowned champion departs, a hero from the past returns with the arrival of Peter Taylor at Priestfield, at least for the short term. **Greg Miles** finds out how he is going to approach his time in charge.

AS far as bowing out goes, Peter Taylor managed it pretty well at Wembley in May 2000. With the Gills trailing to Wigan Athletic in extra-time of the Second Division play-off final, substitutes Steve Butler and Andy Thomson scored to put the club into the First Division for the first time in their history.

That 3-2 win was to be Taylor's last game in charge of Gills before Premier League Leicester City stepped in to take a chance on the former Dartford and Dover Athletic boss.

But now he's back. A wiser and much-travelled coach, he does not want to come in and ruffle too many feathers on taking over as interim manager from Martin Allen, who was sacked last Sunday.

The 60-year-old is mindful of the situation he has been given, having inherited squads in similar positions throughout his career.

"Martin [Allen] deserves a lot of credit for the squad he put together," he said.

"The attitude of the boys was very together and very upbeat. I think that is them getting on with football as sometimes managers change.

"I will encourage the players to play some good football. Hopefully they [the fans] will see an organised team and one that will work hard for the cause – and looking at the players that's what they're all about.

"I've been very fortunate that I've had enough clubs and followed some good managers – I'm very respectful of that. There are no rights and wrongs. You've got to go with it your way. Everybody would change something, but I won't change a great deal. "Sometimes it's nice to work with different people. There won't be a coach who does everything exactly right.

"I spoke to Mark Patterson [Gillingham academy coach] and he said they are a lot like the group we had before. I said to all the players it's a fresh start for everybody. They've got a point to prove. Everybody has got a challenge."

Taylor's team from that glorious season reads like a who's who of Gillingham legends and mercurial talent, from strike partners Bob Taylor and Carl Asaba to the engine room of Nicky Southall and Andy Hestenthaler and a stubborn defence in Guy Butters, Ady Pennock, Barry Ashby and keeper Vince Bartram.

A determined bunch, they bounced back after the heartbreak of the previous season when Manchester City pipped them to promotion in the play-off final on penalties.

"It was very difficult following [previous Gills manager] Tony Pulis at that time – we had a good year, finishing off with a promotion at Wembley and a decent cup run," said Taylor. "I've always thought of the year here as one of the best I've had.

"To get to the Championship was terrific for everybody and Hesty [Hestenthaler, who took charge after Taylor] had the challenge of doing well in the Championship. I think that people understood I had the opportunity to go to Leicester in the Premiership.

"We're in the business to do as well as we can. There were no hard feelings when I left. If I had stayed I would have done the same as Hesty, just trying to keep them in the league.

"I hope people remember that year – with another 13 years' experience, I must be better. It was new to me then – you learn from your mistakes. What was the nicest thing for me was some of the attacking games that year. The Carl Asabas, Bob Taylors and even Andy Thomson at the end – they were tremendous memories."

Taylor will assess his new squad on merit before deciding how to play.

"We played a couple of systems that year. We played the back five and went to a four, but I'm really open-minded on that," he said. "We've had meetings to talk about certain things, what systems we can play."

The timing of Allen's departure shocked some, but after just two wins all season chairman Paul Scally decided it was the right time to change and called on his old friend Taylor to help out in the short term.

However, the former Spurs and Crystal Palace winger wants more than a caretaker's role at Priestfield, which he has visited twice this season on scouting missions for a League One club.

"I'm very pleased to be back," he said. "If I didn't want the job permanently, I wouldn't have come here as interim manager.

"I've had loads of jobs over the

“I've seen enough in the team that with some confidence and a bit of luck they will be OK. It's a new voice, and sometimes it works.”

Peter Taylor,
Interim Gillingham manager



REUNITED: Peter Taylor is glad to be back at Priestfield after a 13-year absence

Pictures: ADY KERRY

Peter Taylor's management history

- 1986-90** Dartford – Two Southern Cup wins
- 1993-95** Southend United
- 1996** Dover Athletic
- 1996-99** England under-21
- 1999-00** Gillingham – Promotion to First Division
- 2000-01** Leicester City
- 2000** England caretaker in 1-0 defeat to Italy
- 2001-02** Brighton & Hove Albion – Promotion to Second Division
- 2002-06** Hull City – Promotion to Second Division and Championship
- 2004-07** England under-21
- 2006-07** Crystal Palace
- 2007-08** Stevenage Borough
- 2008-09** Wycombe Wanderers – Promotion to League One
- 2010-11** Bradford City
- 2011-12** Bahrain – Won the GCC Games and Arab Games
- 2013** England under-20

years because I want to work. There are loads of people out there who wait for the spot-on opportunity who have had half the jobs I've had. The icing on the cake for me is it's at Gillingham."

After witnessing the Gills' 1-1 draw with Brentford and the scrambled 3-2 victory over 10-man MK Dons, he is positive about what he can do with his new troops.

"I've seen enough in the team that with some confidence and a bit of luck they will be OK," he said. "Sometimes it gives people a boost – it's a new voice and sometimes it works.

"Everybody on board here will be doing everything they can to improve our league position. I've got no doubt the players will give everything they've got. I can ensure the fans we are all committed. We have to get on with it."

Taylor may perhaps want to put emphasis on keeping the players on side, with Scally keen for feedback from the

senior squad members about who to bring in.

"Before I appoint a new manager I will discuss that person with a few senior players at the club, who will speak on behalf of the team," said Scally. "It's only right they have some input into that decision. Why would I want to bring in a person if the players don't like them?

"It shouldn't necessarily follow that because I'm the chairman I think someone is right. If the guys working with him day in day out, sitting in hotels, playing for him, for some reason or another don't think he's the right person, I should listen to that.

"We want to get a consensus from every player through the senior players."

Interviews will carry on even while Taylor is guiding the Gills ship.

"I have been very clear with Peter about it that I will conduct the interview process for the next three or four weeks," he said. "It's a win-win situation for everyone.

"Some that applied last year have applied this year. It doesn't necessarily rule them out. It's a different situation. The applications keep coming in – I've had one from a head-teacher and another from a teacher in Wales."

As much as he would like a long-term manager, Scally does not feel that modern football, with all its expectations, is conducive to it.

"I don't know if we have got long-term stability any more," he said. "People always use Sir Alex Ferguson as an example, but there are not many more examples. I don't know if it can run in that way any more.

"If your expectations are to stay where you are, the long term is not possible. I think in an ideal world there is an argument that a manager is good for a year.

"It's like having the same teacher every day of your life. You would get quite bored of them.

"I don't think it sends out the wrong message. I don't think any manager goes into a club thinking past two years."

the ship after Allen axed



SEPARATE WAYS: Gillingham chairman Paul Scally, left, insists he remains friends with Martin Allen, right, but had to make a decision before it was too late

Scally left 'uncomfortable' by background issues at club

GILLINGHAM chairman Paul Scally insists there had been no personality clash between him and sacked manager Martin Allen, but he felt "uncomfortable" about issues going on behind the scenes at the club.

After the success of last season, cracks began to appear over the summer, while Scally admitted he was unhappy with the decision to transfer-list Charlie Lee, Chris Whelpdale, Antonio German and Steven Gregory last month.

That, combined with a poor run of form he did not see improving and the loss of impact that Allen had made in his first year, led him to ending the 48-year-old's 16-month stay at Priestfield.

"There's not a mutiny in the dressing room, but there were a number of unhappy players who were unhappy for the same or similar or different reasons," he said. "I don't think if players are unhappy you're going to get the best out of them."

"In the summer there have been a number of things – players leaving, players joining, the transfer-listing. We never got everyone settled and got everything going."

"I think the other thing supporters need to realise is I am a lot closer to it than they are. I get to know about everything that goes on in the club."

"When I look at the record we only won a couple

Martin Allen's Gills record

27 WINS

17 DRAWS

20 LOSSES

64 games
Win percentage
42.19%

of games at the end of last season – we drew quite a few. The record this season was quite alarming. We are out of both cups and won two games in 13 and three draws. If we carry on that form we will get relegated. That was in my mind. My decision is based on my belief that it wasn't going to improve."

He said he originally only wanted to appoint a manager for a year last season to get them out of League Two but after promotion was happy to let Allen stay. However, the loss of impact that helped them win the title left Scally feeling he had to make a change.

"The impact he had last year I think to a great extent was not as well received this season with the new players. That was a worry," he said. "If a manager is not having the same effect, are you going to win games?"

"I wanted one manager to have a big impact on

the team and get out of the division. Martin wanted a two-year contract, which was fine.

"I had a clause in his contract that if we had not got promotion we had the right to terminate his contract forthwith. It was in my thought process that if we did well he would have a second year."

"Sometimes I think a manager has a great impact in the short term and can fade off in the longer term. Last year we needed the short, sharp shock management."

"I just felt with a number of other issues going on we needed to make a decision now rather than wait until after Christmas."

"I wasn't totally comfortable in the summer, but comfortable enough to run with it. I was fairly uncomfortable before the Crewe game and was happy to get a result there. But the MK Dons game papered over the cracks a bit, I think."

Scally also disagreed with the decision to transfer-list the four players last month.

"I don't think it was the right way to go, personally. By the time I was told, Martin had already made the news public," he said.

"It had happened before I could make my views known. I don't think it was the way it should have gone. Martin had his own reasons for doing it. It didn't make those players happy."

KOS COMMENT...

IT is a well-worn cliché in football that you should never look back.

It is a sentiment Gillingham chairman Paul Scally has echoed himself, but the appointment of Peter Taylor, albeit on an interim basis, does of course not fall in line with that way of thinking.

The man who took Gillingham to the heights of the First Division (later to be known as the Championship) in 1999/2000 before leaving – understandably, whether you like it or not – for Leicester City in the Premier League, is a shrewd appointment.

He knows the club. Yes, he's been away for 13 years, but in that time he's been in and around the Football League alongside the Gills.

He has also kept an eye on things this season, having watched the club on two scouting missions for a League One side. That would have shown him what he has at his disposal and, just as importantly, what he hasn't.

The seemingly temporary nature of his arrival is also a win-win for all parties, as Scally points out.

It puts a positive pressure on Taylor to get results if, as he says, he wants the job, while if it all goes wrong he can walk away knowing he gave it a good shot.

It is also a safety-net for the club. Far from being a knee-jerk reaction, it gives Scally time to assess other candidates while keeping an eye on the live audition from Taylor, again in the knowledge that if it does go wrong there won't be any hefty compensation to deal with.

We can kick the never-go-back cliché into touch, given the years that have passed since he was with the Gills.

What we must be careful of, though, is heightening expectations.

Fans will have fond memories of that promotion, but you should not use that to put unnecessary pressure on Taylor now he's back.

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